





Oh no! After I Reincarnated, My Moms Became Son-cons!

vol.1 – The Story About the Prince of elves:
Rampage of the Beasts

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Novel Updates

Translation Group: [Lord Obsidian](#)

Son con Vol 1

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Translated by [lordobsidian](#)

Chapter 01

Name: Zhu Liangzhe

Sex: Male

Nationality: Chinese

Birth Date: 1997

ID number: XXX.....XXX

Age: 21

Marital Status: Not yet married

Education: Military-machinery field studies graduate

Cause of Death: Drowned saving a citizen

Honours: Posthumous Second-class award for unwavering loyalty

That's right.

I'm dead.

The last thing I saw before my death was a young girl falling into the water. As a soldier who's dedicated to serving the country and its people, I jumped in after her without thinking. The waves were strong and freezing as the ice had just melted after the harsh winter. I was washed away after I managed to get the young girl aboard a rescue boat. It was merely water and yet it felt like a huge rock was being smashed into my face in those moments.

I lost conscious after getting washed away and never woke up.

And so, I, Zhu Liangzhe died at twenty-one just like that. To be frank, I was fairly indifferent about it. I didn't have any regrets, I didn't feel happy nor did I have a sense of satisfaction. My family has always served in the military since the Red Army. My parents would only be upset over my death for a while before changing their perspective and seeing it as me bringing glory to the

family, and actually feel proud about it. I didn't have any worries since I had an older sister who'd take care of them.

Oh yeah, for the record I was single.

I never had any goals while I was alive. I just went along with the daily training and lessons. I think that perhaps military school was suited for me since I'm the sort of person who lacks motivation and needs a push. I wasn't an outstanding soldier to be honest. My grades were average. You know, the type that teachers don't remember, and you have to reintroduce yourself every single time? When I started working, it was just to put food on the table. I never made mistakes and never stood out.

But thanks to this incident, I was awarded a posthumous second-class award and seen as a loyal soldier. I'm sure that's going to help me get my name recorded in history. Yeah, I don't think it's so bad to die a celebrated hero instead of being another face in the crowd with nothing to show. Instead of seeing it as the start of my life, I think it's better to look at it as my one-and-only glorious moment.

It was perfect if I say so myself.

Alright, thinking time is up. Can I pass on now? Why am I still conscious of my own thoughts when they're supposed to have been buried with me at my funeral? Aren't I dead?! How do I still possess self-awareness? Based on the Principle of Materialisation, I'm supposed to have my lights out like a lantern when I die. So how the heck am I still able to consciously process my thoughts?

Don't tell me humans really have souls and that we're just unaware of it because they can't communicate with the living? Can I safely assume that souls don't exist if humans can't see them? No idea. What am I even right now? I seem to just be an abstract thought without a body or limbs. I can't seem to do anything other than think. I have no sight, hearing or smell, nor can I sense my surroundings.

I seem to be limited to just being able to think. Is this what happens after people die? So we lose everything and all that remains is our ability to think, and think indefinitely? A human corpse will corrode, so does our conscious escape our body and continue to exist or something? Uhh... So are these Zhu

Liangzhe's thoughts? Zhu Liangzhe is dead, so are these his thoughts or what?

Holy shit, now I've gone all philosophical.

I'd be chuckling right now if I had a mouth. The problem is... I can't do anything right now. Since this the case, I'm just going to stop bothering with anything. Will my conscious disappear if I stop thinking? Alright ladies and gentlemen, thank you for listening to my endless rambling. I won't bother you any further. Goodbye.

"Troy! Troy! Troy, I beg you... Troy... Wake up... Troy... I'm beg you... Don't... Don't make mommy worry... I beg you, please wake up... How can I continue on living without you? I'm begging you, please wake up..."

Hmm...

Hey lady, could you please show some respect for the dead? Like, could you please not lie on my body and cry? Aren't you aware that pressing your body on top of another person's body will give them a hard time breathing? Do you want him to wake up or sleep for eternity?

Huh?

Wait a second...

Why am I still breathing? I can smell the scent of grass and flowers wafting into my nose and down my throat with each gasp of air. I can taste a strong stench of blood in my throat that's fumbling with my head. I can hear rain falling on the ground and the lady beside me crying.

How are my hands able to feel warmth? I'm more surprised as to how I have all these senses than why my hands are being held by someone.

I'm dead, and the dead aren't supposed to have any senses. Just a moment ago, I only had my thoughts. So how do I suddenly have a sense of touch now? Aren't I dead? How come I suddenly feel life again? I can hear my faint heartbeat.

I coughed violently and spat a mouthful of blood out, clearing out my throat. The chilly air blew into my lungs and gave all the cells in my body a wake-up call. I slowly opened my eyes as a few teardrops landed on my face. Still in my

stupor, I looked at the grey sky that was still spitting.

How am I alive?

Where is this place?

I died. I'm one-hundred percent positive I died. What on Earth is going on? The fact that I was still consciously processing thoughts after death was a surprise, but I don't know what to think of being reincarnated. What in the world is going on? I'm mind-blown right now.

"Troy!! My son! My son! I'm so glad! I'm so glad! I'm so glad you're still alive! Thank you Goddess Clementina for protecting my son! Thank you! Thank you!"

Before I could figure out what was going on, I got pulled into some lady's embrace out of the blue with my head wedged in between two big round warm things... All that air I breathed in just now slowly began to get depleted and all I could smell was a strong flower-scent... What flower is this? I feel like I've encountered it before... But there's a more important matter at hand so let's put that aside for now... Miss, could you please let go of me, I'm suffocating here!!

After she let go of me, she anxiously cupped my face in her hands. A face so beautiful with eyes coloured blue like lightning, you'd think it was the perfect 3D sculpture appeared before me. One question... Why are her ears pointy? Her slender fingers slid across my face as she caressed my face and then she anxiously asked: "What's wrong? You must be in lots of pain! It's all mommy's fault... It's all mommy's fault... Mommy shouldn't have let you go and hunt Earth Dragons... It's all mommy's fault... I'm so glad you're alright, my son... I'm so glad... Mommy will take you home... Mommy will take you home..."

Hey, uhh... Who are you miss? I mean, could you please tell me who I am? I just came back to life and am still having trouble trying to figure out what just happened. I know I passed on, so why am I here, and uhh... While everything I'm seeing looks familiar to the things I see every day, for some reason it feels foreign at the same time...

Especially, this lady in front of me who called herself "mom"...

"What's wrong? Do you still recognise me? It's me, I'm your mom!" She

caressed my face in her palms and held it up so that our gazes would meet. Perhaps she noticed the look of bewilderment on my face. As she held my face in her hands, she shouted: “I’m your mom! Son... I’m your mom! Don’t scare me... Don’t scare mommy... You’ll be fine, you’ll definitely be alright!”

“M-mom...?”

Thoughts that seemingly didn’t belong to me came gushing in. I looked at the lady in front of me, and called her “mom” as if it were natural to. She sniffled, pursed her lips and put on a smile filled with infinite happiness. She tightly held me in her embrace and cried on my shoulder.

I spaced out as she tightly embraced me. All I could feel were her supple breasts, her body warmth and smell her fragrance. It looks like I need to reprocess my thinking here. It’s safe to assume at this point that I’m living the plot of those dimensional travel novels I’ve always despised right now.

I looked at her pointy ears and thought to myself: “This is a rather unusual time-travel experience,” because I didn’t travel to the past nor future, but what appears to be a different world... My mom probably isn’t human. In fact, she resembles an elf... Hold up! My mom’s an elf! Doesn’t that make me an elf too then?!

I swiftly lifted my hands up to my ears and touched them. Eh? Human ears? What the? So I’m a human? Did this lady mistake me for someone else? I’m a human! How is it possible an elf give birth to a human? Could my father be a human by chance? If so, doesn’t that mean I’m a half-breed then?

My brain was overcome with these questions. And the more I thought about it about, the more questions I got. Wait, no. I didn’t get answers, they were more like: “It is what it is,” type answers that were supposed to be common sense knowledge here. The question is “why”? What’s with these conscious thoughts and memories? Do these memories belong to the original owner of this body? Have I inherited his memories? So, the original owner of this body is dead then.

This lady hugging me from the front is my mother... And... And...

“Your highness! We have finally found you!”

The sound of horse hooves approaching came from behind my mom. A group of people dashed out from the forest after seeing my mom and I, and let out a huge sigh... The leader of the people, I mean, elves, wore armour and looked quite handsome for a man, or should I say, he looks a little weak although handsome for a man? He walked up to us, knelt down on one knee, pressed his right hand to his chest, lowered his head and said: "It is dangerous here. Your highness, please take his highness and leave this place quickly."

So my mom is the queen of elves now?! That'd make me the prince of elves then!! What the hell is up with this dimensional travel plot? What are the chances this is all coincidental? You're telling me that I reincarnated, and then just conveniently woke up as the prince of elves?! I don't buy it!

Mom wiped the corner of her eyes, grasped my hands tightly and stood up. She then turned around and said: "You must protect the prince no matter what! Don't worry about me. I can't bear to see my son get hurt."

She then turned around and gently caressed my face as she comforted me with a smile: "It's alright, it'll be fine now. My dear son, it's fine now. Don't be scared, mommy is here for you. Don't worry, we'll be home soon. I won't ever let you come to such dangerous places again... It's all my fault... It's all my fault..."

I could feel her sincere motherly love towards me. It's a pity that I'm not the original owner of this body... I watched her mournful face and saw her tears rolling down like a shattered diamond... I didn't want to aggravate her any further so I just nodded.

And thus began my new life in a new and unfamiliar body.

This body felt strangely light. I looked down at myself and couldn't see how I was any different to any other human. I just looked slightly leaner than before. I may have just whiled away in my previous life, but I did build a muscular body, so I wasn't too comfortable in this leaner body.

Right now, I was wearing a simple piece of leather armour. However, underneath the armour was an evidently superbly made shirt. My cape was torn, shredded and covered in mud, while my shoes were so worn out they were ready to hit the trash can. These were equestrian boots, which means this

person came to this place by via horseback. The scabbard dangling on my waist was empty. Where's my sword?!

All of a sudden, images started popping up in my mind like a movie. There were cheers from the townspeople... Bustling crowds... Soldiers gathered around together... Myself waving with a smile as I rode atop my horse... The darkness in the forest... A large shadow trampling on troops... Cries of agony... While I was fleeing, a huge beast sent me flying and then stomped on me...

"AAARRGH!"

That flashback feels so realistic that it's scary. I hastily touched my stomach and discovered it was evidently dented. The sudden surprise caused me to break out into a cold sweat. It's a miracle that this body didn't get reduced to mince-meat. If it did, it would've been pointless for me to be reincarnated. Looks like I was brought here to slay something but ended up getting killed instead...

I think that massive beast is called an Earth Dragon or something... They look similar to three horned dragons. It looked immune to magic and resistant to physical attacks from weapons. Facing a creature like that, I'm not surprised they failed. The dragon scales are too hard, and according to the memories of the original owner of this body, my men didn't seem to have any heavy weaponry equipped.

Could it be possible that elves don't possess any heavy firearms?

Seeing as how I don't have any recollections of that, I gather that the memories I've inherited are very limited. I only have the memories of the day of my death. The only complete memory I have is of my mother.

Two troops walked up to us and dismounted. I took the reins and awkwardly hopped on. Mom clumsily mounted her horse. I saw her glorious boobs jiggle as she mounted her horse. She wasn't dressed in battle attire. She was dressed in a casual everyday dress. Mom evidently traversed their forest for a long time trying to look for me as her dress was tattered.

Mom trudged a few steps on her horse, but then suddenly turned back, faced the troops and said: "Let's head back to the palace now. Oh, right. All of you get changed."

The captain froze for a second, but then quickly caught on to what mom meant. He commanded the troops below: “Throw some mud on your clothes, tear them, and splat some blood on them! Remember, we won! Our campaign was a success! We are the victors! Victory!”

“Victory!”

Mom nodded and then said: “Have you prepared what I asked for?”

The captain took a bag out and said: “It is ready, your highness.”

Mom took the bag and opened it. I could hear the rattling of gold pieces. I leaned over to steal a peek and saw something shiny akin to gold, but seemingly resembling once live scales.

“These are Earth Dragon scales. Remember son, you were victorious this time. You’re returning as a victor. When we get back, scatter these in the crowds. It’ll be alright. Don’t worry about Earth Dragons and whatnot. Just stay by my side and everything will be fine. Please, don’t ever get yourself in trouble again. Mommy won’t let you go to such dangerous places like that again.”

Mom looked at me with adoration as she handed me the bag. The bag felt as heavy as a bag filled with gold. They were just some creatures’ scales so why were they so heavy?

I lifted my head and suddenly understood what happened earlier.

The waste-ground with snapped tree branches where I woke up upon arriving in this world was a pool of blood.

This bag of scales contained the weight of their lives...

And then, the rain stopped and the sun shined through the clouds. The sunrays reflected off my leather army as I caught a glimpse of faces filled with despair...

Translated by [lordobsidian](#)

Chapter 02

Translator: Wu Jizun & flarewk! (in case our translations collide, and because he did translate part of it before dropping it)

After a long horse ride, we exited this pitch-black forest area and finally arrived at a normal road. I spotted a crowd of elves moving along the road and roadside, and I appraised out of curiosity. Elves have bodies and ears that are different to humans, but other than that, their other characteristics are pretty much the same as humans. This street and the tiny hawker stalls along the roadside are the same as what you would see in human society.

I thought elves would segregate themselves and spread themselves out in the mountains and forests. I never imagined they had their own cities. Could it be due to the influence of the humans in this world?

“Wear your head cloth properly, son.”

I suddenly felt a warm sensation in my ears which made me jolt. When I turned around, I saw mom looking at me with a gentle smile as she fixed the part of the head cloth covering my ears. Mom gently held her slender finger out and cutely went “shh”, and said: “Don’t let anyone see your ears~”

Looks like elves really care about blood lineages.

To be honest, I didn’t understand the things I saw and experienced. Perhaps I only have the memories of up to one day before he died. He led a group to battle, but they were virtually completely annihilated, yet I had to lie to those that saw us off with the bag in my hand. It wasn’t a victory, but a crushing defeat.

I don’t like this feeling. None of this has anything to do with me, but this goes against everything I was taught growing up. I know that I have to tell this lie. No one enjoys the feeling of defeat. But the warriors who fought with their lives can’t rest in peace like this.

“Do~do~do~do~~”

The foot soldier walking behind us suddenly blew his horn and all the people around us who heard it, quickly gathered around us and admired the cavalry as they cheered in celebration. Perhaps this was their way of celebrating victories.

Mom gently nudged me and said: “Take these items and share it with everyone. Remember, you were victorious, so be happy. You’re the star today.”

I opened the bag and took out a handful of dragon scales; the earth dragon scales had a golden glow to them, but if you touched them, you could feel the traces of a pattern on them, while the back of them had a soft skin-life touch. The centres of the scales were very thick, while the edges were sharp. I scattered the scales into the crowd. They responded with loud cheers and began fighting over the scales I scattered.

“In the name of the great Morigan! In the name of the great forest! In the name of the goddess Clementina! For our triumphant warrior, Prince Troy Galadriel Rovna’s campaign against the wild beasts! May the glory of the forests and lakes be with him forever.

The troops behind us cried out. I tried to understand what they were saying, but realised I couldn’t understand their language at all. However, that did not seem to affect my comprehension skills or ability to speak. It appears memory and language belong in different areas of the brain. I absent-mindedly scattered the dragon scales into the crowd. It was because I was a bit nervous, but also because I really did not want to witness this scene.

My mother seemed to be able to tell I was not in high spirits, so she pinched my cheeks softly, and said: “Smile, my son. I couldn’t be more happy to know that you’re still alive.”

“uhm.”

I nodded and slowly made myself into the elf city. The city look similar to those of humans. It had magnificent walls and a thick iron city gate covered with the skin of beasts. After passing through the city gates, I looked up to see a big hole where boiling oil is poured down when defending the city walls. By the looks of it, the hole had been used more than once.

Elves should be able to use magic, right? I've checked my hands many times, but I don't feel any magic flowing through...

We passed the streets and crowds crying in joy and the palace at the centre of the city finally came into sight. The palace had a European nuance. I couldn't see any distinct elf-like characteristics. It seems the elves from here are very close to humans, because even their culture is the same. Mom and I rode our horses inside after the palace doors opened. Upon entering, we saw a giant flower garden, and there was a pond right in the middle of the garden. It looked very sturdy for a pond that was merely used for entertainment in the palace. The surrounding grass was lush green, so there must be someone taking care of it daily. In the middle of the pond were some geese lazily grooming their feathers. After passing the garden, we arrived at the square which was behind the garden with a fountain in the middle. The floor was spotless. Not even a stone was in sight.

Behind us, the palace path looked so long, it would take some time to cross even on horseback.

"Son, go in and rest for a bit, you must be exhausted. Rest up. Don't worry about a thing, mommy is here. Don't worry about a thing."

"But it's the middle of the day right now...."

Mom and I got off our horses, but mom was a little clumsy, so I carried her off. Mom then tightly grabbed my hand as though she was not going to let me go anywhere. Mom's blue eyes still showed a hint of fear and worry, and her hands were trembling more fiercely than mine. She was more afraid than I was. She must've been so worried when I left.

"Come with mommy, okay? Come with mom... Mommy is scared, scared that you....."

Her beautiful face and alluring lips trembled uncontrollably, so I helplessly nodded and walked hand-in-hand with her into the palace.

"Your royal highnesses! Congratulations on your victory!"

As soon as we entered the door, I heard a shout which shocked me. In front of the hall knelt an elf with his left hand on his chest and his head bowed down

congratulating us. Mom smiled and then walked up to them and said "Thank you, but the prince is exhausted after the tough battle. Please try to refrain from burdening the prince with your questions. After the prince has recovered, he will be glad to share the story with you."

The two pretty maids standing by my side gently said: "This way, your highness."

"ah... Okay..."

I slowly followed the two maids along the red carpet, and stole a look outside to see the flowers in bloom, neatly pruned trees and grass. This isn't a place I should be at, but... you could say that everything here belongs to me now.

I must ask is my room that damned far away?! Could you be a little bit more considerate towards a victim who just returned from the dead and rode a horse a heck of a long way to arrive here?! I didn't feel tired when I woke up on the battlefield, nor did I feel tired on the way back on the horse, and yet I'm so exhausted walking to my room that I want to take a break.....

"Your highness, please take a short break. We will help you wash up soon."

The maids pulled the door open and respectfully bowed. I nodded and entered my room. This room is huge! The bed which would make anyone jump out of shock was on one side and above it was a massive hanging light, but... it wasn't hanging from the ceiling... it was floating in mid-air. The entire room was decorated and there was even a fireplace, but the flame inside was blue.

I walked over and touched the flame out of curiosity. I found that the flame felt like the air... I couldn't feel anything. No, the flame was slightly warm. In fact, it was the same temperature as the room. To be more precise, it was this flame that controlled the room's temperature.

How interesting. This is basically like an air-conditioner.

"What's wrong, are you hot?"

Said a lazy voice from behind. I was so shocked that I almost dived head-first into the fire. I swiftly turned around and saw a small delicate face that looked like a westerner behind the bed curtain. Her eyes had a very rare green tinge but also have off the feeling that she wasn't fully awake. Her pointy ears

trembled a little, and she crawled across my bed to ask me in a lazy tone:

“Umm... this is my room... isn’t it?”

The maids couldn’t have made a mistake right!?

“ah, yeah...”

She then rolled over without a care and in the world and said:

“In that case...”

“Is there a problem? I mean, I come into your room everyday...”

Who are you, miss? Would you care to explain how you’re able to enter my room so casually? I don’t even know you..... She rolled over on my bed and then somersaulted onto the floor and stoop up. Her long dress didn’t seem to affect her agile body. She walked up to my side and skilfully grabbed my hand. Her lazy eyes gazed at me. Her fine and smooth skin appeared in front of me in a flash but her boobs were not as firm as mom’s...

“So you won?”

She asked with her head leaning to one side.

“But, Atta... Tracy... and Gela aren’t back.” She let go of my hands, looked down and I noticed a slight tremble in her tone. I juggled the names around in my hand for a bit, but I couldn’t recall ever hearing those names. I never met those people before. But for some reason my heart was aching. Why did I feel ashamed?

“Sorry.....”

I looked down to the floor, clenched my fist and mumbled under my breath: “Sorry... I... I... We... Failed... Everyone... Everyone... I’m the only one who survived...”

I was the only survivor. Everyone else died... Why? Why? Why am I hurting inside and feeling despair when this has nothing to do with me...? Why didn’t I feel fear during my moment of death, and yet feel like I’m going to break down in tears now? Whose feelings are these? Are the mine or his?

The female elf in front of me lifted her head up and looked at me. Her eye

glimmered with a ray of light, and then she extended her arms out and hugged me. Her faint perfume intensified in my embrace. She rested her small head on my chest while her arms wrapped around me in an embrace as we warmed each other up.

“It’s alright, it’s alright... You’re still here. All’s well. As long as you’re here... As long as you’re here, I won’t be lonely...” Since her head rested on my chest, her trembling voice passed through my chest and into my heart.

“Ah...”

Her sudden gentleness broke pass my final line of defence. I felt a few tear drops roll down from my eyes. I silently hugged this girl I met for the first time, and let her warmth sooth my heart...

“Your highness, please come wash up.”

What’s your name maid girl? There’s no need for you to come from tomorrow onwards.

We let each other go as the maid sternly looked us and then turned to ask the girl: “Would you like to join us Miss Lucia? We can make preparations if you wish so.”

She nonchalantly answered: “Sure!”

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Stop! Please stop! What the hell is going on?! Aren’t I supposed to wash up on my own? How on Earth did it suddenly become a mixed-bath?! Who on Earth is this girl? Don’t pull the wife or fiancé card on me now!

There’s nothing bad about it, but... that’s too exhilarating for a virgin like myself!

“Let’s go then. Let’s go wash up. I haven’t washed in ages. The queen should be there too, right? ‘Cause the queen is there every time you go to wash.” Lucia grabbed my hand and led me without needing a maid guide her.

Hold up. Did you just say mom would be there too?!

My imagination ran wild with images of mom’s S-line body nude... Fuck! That’s too much for my single-core brain to handle. Oh shit! Oh shit! My little

brother is definitely going to react! How can I do this to my mother!?

Lucia pushed a door open, ah, there's no heat... Wait. Something is off. If there's no heat, then there wouldn't be any lights either! That means... I have nothing to look at!! Stop! Stop! She's your mom, what are you thinking?! I need to stop myself from having those thoughts!! How did the atmosphere suddenly change from a melancholic one to this!? Shouldn't I be preparing to take revenge? Why am I suddenly being rewarded instead!?

What sort of demented cultural practice is this?! Bad cultural practices must be destroyed!

"Ah, my dear son, you're here. Miss Lucia is here as well. Your relationship is as good as always, huh?" Just as my brain was about to be completely fried, someone violently hugged me from behind and my mind felt warm again. But this time, it wasn't clothes-to-clothes contact... This is skin-on-skin!!!

Mom's voice came from behind, and my heart raced like crazy. Her boobs were on both sides of my face, but I didn't even have the courage to bat an eyelid. I slowly began to helplessly lean forward, but Lucia was completely naked in front of me!!

Lucia should be a young elf, right? The skin of elves and humans are completely different. Human skin should reflect light a little, but it looks like an elf's body gives off a faint fluorescent glow. Lucia's skin looked as smooth as a marble, shiny as crystals and white as if almost transparent, as though the sun were shining right onto her body. I really wonder if her body is transparent. By human standards, the body proportions of elves are perfect. Slender limbs and boobs with the perfect curves and peak at the right spot...

"Pfft."

"What's wrong, son? Why are you bending over all of a sudden? Do you have a stomach ache?"

Uhh...

This is a reaction guys sometimes inevitably have...

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I don’t like this feeling. None of this has anything to do with me, but this goes against everything I was taught growing up. I know that I have to tell this lie. No one enjoys the feeling of defeat. But the warriors who fought with their lives can’t rest in peace like this.

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I opened the bag and took out a handful of dragon scales; the Earth Dragon scales had a golden glow to them, but if you touched them, you could feel the traces of a pattern on them, while the back of them had a soft skin-life touch. The centres of the scales were very thick, while the edges were sharp. I scattered the scales into the crowd. They responded with loud cheers and began fighting over the scales I scattered.

"In the name of the great Morigan! In the name of the great forest! In the name of the Goddess Clementina! For our triumphant warrior, Prince Troy Galadriel Rovna's campaign against the wild beasts! May the glory of the forests and lakes be with him forever."

The troops behind us cried out. I tried to understand what they were saying, but realised I couldn't understand their language at all. However, that didn't seem to affect my comprehension skills or ability to speak. It appears memory and language belong in different areas of the brain. I absent-mindedly scattered the dragon scales into the crowd. It was because I was a bit nervous, but also because I truthfully didn't want to witness this scene.

My mother seemed to be able to tell I was not in high spirits, so she pinched my cheeks softly, and said: "Smile, my son. I couldn't be happier to know that you're still alive."

"Uhm."

I nodded and slowly made my way into the elf city. The city looked similar to those of humans. It had magnificent walls and a thick iron city gate covered with the skin of beasts. After passing through the city gates, I looked up to see a big hole where boiling oil is poured down when defending the city walls. By the looks of it, the hole had been used more than once.

Elves should be able to use magic, right? I've checked my hands many times, but I don't feel any magic flowing through them...

We passed the streets and crowds crying in joy and the palace at the centre of the city finally came into sight. The palace had a European nuance. I couldn't see any distinct elf-like characteristics. It seems the elves from here are very close to humans, because even their culture is the same. Mom and I rode our horses inside after the palace doors opened. Upon entering, we saw a giant flower garden, and there was a pond right in the middle of the garden. It looked very sturdy for a pond that was merely used for entertainment in the palace. The surrounding grass was lush green, so there must be people taking care of it daily. In the middle of the pond were some geese lazily grooming their feathers. After passing the garden, we arrived at the square which was behind the garden with a fountain in the middle. The floor was spotless. Not even a stone was in sight.

Behind us, the palace path looked so long, it would take some time to cross even on horseback.

"Son, head in and rest for a bit, you must be exhausted. Rest up. Don't worry about a thing, mommy is here. Don't worry about a thing."

"But it's the middle of the day right now...."

Mom and I dismounted, but mom was a little clumsy, so I carried her off. Mom then tightly grabbed my hand as though she was not going to let me go anywhere. Mom's blue eyes still showed a hint of fear and worry, and her hands were trembling more fiercely than mine. She was more afraid than I was. She must've been so worried when I left.

"Come with mommy, okay? Come with mom... Mommy is scared, scared that you....."

Her beautiful face and alluring lips trembled uncontrollably, so I helplessly nodded and walked hand-in-hand with her into the palace.

"Your highnesses! Congratulations on your victory!"

As soon as we entered the door, I heard a shout which shocked me. In front of the hall knelt an elf with his left hand on his chest and his head bowed down congratulating us. Mom smiled and then walked up to them and said "Thank you, but the prince is exhausted after the tough battle. Please try to refrain from burdening the prince with your questions. After the prince has recovered,

he will be glad to share the story with you."

The two pretty maids standing by my side gently said: "This way, your highness."

"Ah... Okay..."

I slowly followed the two maids along the red carpet, and stole a look outside to see the flowers in bloom, neatly pruned trees and grass. This isn't a place I should be at, but... You could say that everything here belongs to me now.

One of the maids walked in front of me while the other followed behind me. Their ears moved in rhythm with their steps which made me really want to feel them.... But I felt that I shouldn't do anything impolite so I withheld the thought.

I must ask, is my room that damned far away?! Could you be a little bit more considerate towards a victim who just returned from the dead and rode a horse a heck of a long way to arrive here?! I didn't feel tired when I woke up on the battlefield, nor did I feel tired on the way back on the horse, and yet I'm so exhausted walking to my room that I want to take a break.....

"Your highness, please take a short break. We will help you wash up soon."

The maids pulled the door open and respectfully bowed. I nodded and entered my room. The room was huge! The bed which would make anyone jump out of shock was on one side and above it was a massive hanging light, but... It wasn't hanging from the ceiling.... It was floating in mid-air. The entire room was decorated and there was even a fireplace, but the flame inside was blue.

I walked over and touched the flame out of curiosity. I found that the flame felt like the air.... I couldn't feel anything. No, the flame was slightly warm. In fact, it was the same temperature as the room. To be more precise, it was this flame that controlled the room's temperature.

How interesting. This is basically like an air-conditioner.

A lazy voice suddenly spoke out to me from behind. I was so shocked that I almost dived head-first into the fire. I swiftly turned around and saw a small delicate face that looked like a westerner behind the bed curtain. Her eyes had

a very rare green tinge but also have off the feeling that she wasn't fully awake. Her pointy ears trembled a little, and she crawled across my bed to ask me in a lazy tone: "What's wrong, are you hot?"

I asked: "Umm... this is my room... isn't it?"

The maids couldn't have made a mistake right!?

"Ah, yeah...."

She then rolled over without a care and in the world and said: "So... Is there a problem? I mean, I come into your room everyday...."

Who are you, miss? Would you care to explain how you're able to enter my room so casually? I don't even know you..... She rolled over on my bed and then somersaulted onto the floor and stoop up. Her long skirt didn't seem to affect her agile body. She walked up to my side and skilfully grabbed my hand. Her lazy eyes gazed at me. Her fine and smooth skin appeared in front of me in a flash but her boobs were not as firm as mom's...

She tilted her head to one side and asked: "So you won?"

"But, Atta... Tracy... and Gela aren't back." She let go of my hands, looked down and I noticed a slight tremble in her tone. I juggled the names around in my hand for a bit, but I couldn't recall ever hearing those names. I never met those people before. But for some reason my heart was aching. Why did I feel ashamed?

"Sorry....."

I looked down to the floor, clenched my fist and mumbled under my breath: "Sorry... I... I... We... Failed... Everyone... Everyone... I'm the only one who survived...."

I was the only survivor. Everyone else died... Why? Why? Why am I hurting inside and feeling despair when this has nothing to do with me...? Why didn't I feel fear during my moment of death, and yet feel like I'm going to break down in tears now? Whose feelings are these? Are they mine or his?

The female elf in front of me raised her head and looked at me. Her eye glimmered with a ray of light. She then extended her arms out and hugged me.

Her faint perfume intensified in my embrace. She rested her small head on my chest while her arms wrapped around me in an embrace as we warmed each other up.

“It’s alright, it’s alright.... You’re still here. All is well. As long as you’re here. As long as you’re here, I won’t be lonely...” Since her head rested on my chest, her trembling voice passed through my chest and into my heart.

“Uhm....”

Her sudden gentleness broke down my final line of defence. I felt a few tear drops roll down from my eyes. I silently hugged this girl I met for the first time, and let her warmth sooth my heart...

“Your highness, please come wash up.”

What’s your name maid girl? There’s no need for you to come from tomorrow onwards.

We let each other go as the maid sternly looked us and then turned to ask the girl: “Would you like to join, Miss Lucia? We can make preparations if you wish so.”

She nonchalantly answered: “Sure!”

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Stop! Please stop! What the hell is going on?! Aren’t I supposed to wash up on my own? How on Earth did it suddenly become a mixed-bath?! Who on Earth is this girl? Don’t pull the wife or fiancé card on me now!

There’s nothing bad about it, but... That’s too exhilarating for a virgin like myself!

“Let’s go then. Let’s go wash up. I haven’t washed in ages. Her highness should be there too, right? ‘Cause her highness is there every time you go to wash.” Lucia grabbed my hand and led me without needing a maid guide her.

Hold up. Did you just say mom would be there too?!

My imagination ran wild with images of mom’s S-line body nude... Fuck! That’s too much for my single-core brain to handle. Oh shit! Oh shit! My little brother is definitely going to react! How can I do this to my mother!?

Lucia pushed the door open. Ah, there's no heat.... Wait. Something is off. If there's no heat, then there wouldn't be any lights either! That means... I have nothing to look at!! Stop! Stop! She's your mom, what are you thinking?! I need to stop myself from having those thoughts!! How did the atmosphere suddenly change from a melancholic one to this!? Shouldn't I be preparing to take revenge? Why am I suddenly being rewarded instead!?

What sort of demented cultural practice is this?! Bad cultural practices must be destroyed!

"Ah, my dear son, you're here. Miss Lucia is here as well. Your relationship is as good as always, huh?" Just as my brain was about to be completely fried, someone violently hugged me from behind and my mind felt warm again. But this time, it wasn't clothes-to-clothes contact... This is skin-on-skin!!!

Mom's voice came from behind, and my heart raced like crazy. Her boobs were on both sides of my face, but I didn't even have the courage to bat an eyelid. I slowly began to helplessly lean forward, but Lucia was completely naked in front of me!!

Lucia should be a young elf, right? The skin of elves and humans are completely different. Human skin should reflect a little light, but it looks like an elf's body gives off a faint fluorescent glow. Lucia's skin looked as smooth as a marble, shiny as crystals and white as if almost transparent, as though the sun were shining right onto her body. I really wonder if her body is transparent. By human standards, the body proportions of elves are perfect. Slender limbs and boobs with the perfect curves that peak at the right spots....

"Pfft."

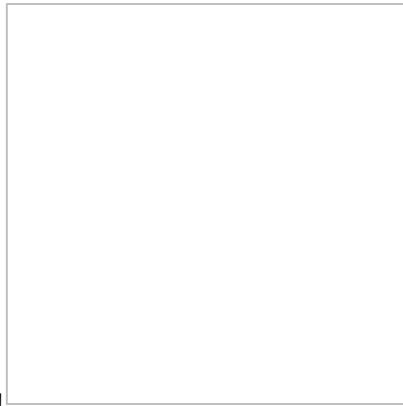
"What's wrong, son? Why are you bending over all of a sudden? Do you have a stomach ache?"

Uhh...

This is a reaction guys sometimes inevitably have...

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Chapter 03

“Come, my son, let me help you wash.”

Mom gently hugged me, and gently scrubbed my arms with a sponge while smiling. The bathrooms of elves were probably created with their lifestyle in mind. It’s not a tub of water, but a river, and on both sides of the river are dense woods.

Mom hugged me as soon as we got into the water and began to scrub me without any explanation. Of course I thought about resisting, but for whatever reason, once I entered the water, I felt like I was in a trance and couldn’t move despite my mind being fully aware of what was happening. My body just wouldn’t budge. I couldn’t even blink, let alone shift my gaze.

Mom scrubbed my body with the sponge while she continued hugging me. I watched on with worry as her hands slid across my naked body. This is too stimulating even if she’s my mother! Further, she’s the mother of the owner of this body, but to me... she’s just a hot housewife with a smokin’ bod! I don’t feel any ethical constraints holding me back!

You could’ve just scrubbed my back, why do you want me to face you? I’m facing an everyday crisis and yet I have to control myself... It’s killing me!

“Come closer, I’ll scrub your legs.”

It’s fine, I’m good!! Don’t! Don’t touch me there!! Mom’s hand slid downwards, and she pulled me in even closer with her hand on my back. I fell into mom’s embrace at full force, and of course, collided with her firm and warm boobs. My hand that couldn’t move grabbed onto her boob...

I can’t handle this torture... Just kill me now...

“Oh? Hehe, you naughty boy...”

Mom giggled before poking my forehead and pulled me even tighter into her embrace. I beg you, let me go, okay? This isn’t my fault! I wasn’t the one who

started this... I can't even move for crying out loud! Why is my body that's so nimble on land like a rock in water? I can't control my body. Now I understand why mom always needs to help me wash. If she weren't here, I'd just drown.

"Have the side-effects of your magic powers going berserk not healed yet...?"

Lucia then swam over to me. Elves can swim really fast like fish... perhaps it's related to their magical powers. She leaned onto my back like a dog taking a break on a rock after a swim. I don't really care about that, but please rest on my with your back and not the front of your body. Please! Your boobs aren't as spectacular as mom's, but they're still boobs!

Wait. What did you say? Magic powers going berserk? Me?

Mom let out a heavy sigh and said: "Yeah. The condition can be alleviated, but there's no permanent cure for it... It's all my fault... It's all my fault that you're suffering... It's all mommy's fault... You can't even do something as simple as wash yourself because of me..."

Could you please explain why I can perform much more complex tasks, but can't do something as simple as cleaning myself?! Mom skilfully scrubbed my legs, but it looks like she's aware of her role as a mother and nothing dramatic happened, like touching something she shouldn't touch and then...

But I can't feel my body at all right now, so even if she touched it, nothing would happen, right?

Lucia who was resting on my back suddenly moved, and asked:

"Your highness, I've always been curious about something."

Mom smiled and leaned her head to one side, and asked:

"What do you want to ask, Lucia?"

"Umm... I want to know about that part on Troy's lower body that's different to ours. What's that thing supposed to be used for? And..." Lucia dipped one of her fingers into to water while my sixth sense went bonkers to warn me that the most dangerous situation a man could face was about to happen. I gave it my all to move, but couldn't no matter how hard I tried. I couldn't even make a sound. I couldn't even groan either.

I felt a finger encroach upon my forbidden area...

Don't!!! Keep those hands there, don't get playful! This isn't a toy. It's my hope and my pride as a man!

"Oh! Are you talking about this?"

Mom, I beg you... If you're my biological mom, then please don't go along with her! Could you please stop touching it? As my mother, you've seen everything there is to see. Just why are you playing along with her? I beg you, please stop her. I'm begging you! Can you imagine the pain of being teased and yet unable to do anything about it? This is the worst form of torture in the world!

"If you're talking about this, then it's something you'll probably use it in the future~" said mom as she winked at Lucia. Lucia paused for a moment and continued: "When will I use it?"

"Once you two vow to protect and be with each other forever under the old tree, you'll use it." Mom smiled and let go, as well as removing Lucia's hand. Thank you. Thank you so much, you really are my mother.

Mom easily carried me out of the water. It's strange. As soon as I left the water, I had the strength to move my body again. I took a deep breath and blinked my eyes with all my might before lying down on the floor. Washing up wasn't refreshing at all, it was pure torture.

"Troy..."

"Huh?"

I wearily opened my eyes and saw the shadow of a figure coming down towards me from above. I yelled out and subconsciously stretched out my arms. Lucia's body connected with my body as she came down from above. Her refreshed body and the tip of her tits made contact with my chest, which made me feel like I got electrocuted.

"Hehe... Troy's body..."

Lucia laughed and then hugged my body as her small boobs rubbed against my chest. At the same time, I could feel her tits rubbing me against my body as

she moved around.

God help me...

My body is definitely going to react.

“Oho~... Looks like you’ve grown...” said mom with a blushing face and a happy smile from behind.

I’ve come to understand a lot of things after this experience.

First, my body can’t touch water otherwise it’ll freeze up and become immobile. Maybe it’s due to me being diagnosed with “Berserk Magical Powers”. In any case, I must be careful to not come into contact with water from now on. I must avoid lakes and rivers.

Second, Lucia is my childhood friend. Her father is currently the captain of the guards, which is the squad that came to my rescue. Not only is she my childhood friend, but she’s also my fiancé... We haven’t publicised it, but it’s certainly not a secret in the palace.

When I mentioned leaving the palace, mom warned me: “You want to go outside? Don’t leave the palace~ Don’t leave the palace no matter what. Stay within my sight, okay?” She poked my forehead with her index finger, and said: “You never listen to me, so I casted a spell on the door so that I’ll know when you leave. Don’t make mommy worry or I’ll give you a spanking...”

Mom, I’m not a kid anymore. Could you please stop threatening me with those childish threats. And don’t you think pulling the pants of your grown child down to spank him is a bit ludicrous?!

To be honest, I don’t want to go outside either. I just want to find a place so that I can think. I left the palace, went to the flower garden and found a tree to sit under. I let out a long sigh and looked up at the tree overhead in a daze.

It hasn’t even been a day and yet so much has happened. So much has happened since I died up until now. Just being reincarnated is mind-blowing in itself. But now I’m a prince, and mom is a blonde big-boobed elf. And to top it off, I’ve got a cute childhood elf friend who’s my fiancé. None of this is easy to digest.

But perhaps it's precisely because it's so hard to believe that I've accepted it. All this has made me lose my ability to reason. I'm just accepting them as facts.

I touched my pocket and felt something hard and solid. I was wearing what I wore when I left: a small vest, a shirt and trousers. It looks like the maids were very diligent and put all my belongings into the pockets of my new clothes.

I took something out and it turned out to be a dragon scale. I paused for a moment and let out a sigh. Well, I guess this did happen after all. Not everything was going to be flowers and roses. The Earth Dragon matter had nothing to do with me, but I've been dragged into it now.

That was a lie. If Earth Dragons were harming people, then the campaign would lose all its meaning. On the surface, it looks like I'm the victor, but victims are still suffering from poisoning and the Earth Dragons are still killing elves. I can't lie about that, but was forced to lie about it in order to protect our reputation.

But I don't understand the nature of Earth Dragons. I don't have the knowledge and memory of the previous owner of this body. I only have fragmented images of black shadows in my memory. Just how scary are these creatures?

“Earth Dragon Scales, huh?”

A voice suddenly came from above me. I looked up to see Lucia sitting on the tree looking down at me. I smiled bitterly. I've never been able to detect where Lucia is. Lucia's magical skill is “Concealment”, so as long as she doesn't appear on her own accord, she'll never be discovered. She's a definitely a first-rate assassin.

Lucia lightly slid down and forcefully pushed my hand away to sit in my embrace and snatched the dragon scale from me. Her usually sleepy eyes were full of energy as she said: “Damned Earth Dragons. They've killed so many elves and have headed for the capital. We've led campaigns against them numerous times but failed. It looks like we need the army to join in to be able to slay them...”

“Why are Earth Dragons...”

“Don’t you know? You’ve experienced it yourself once.” Lucia turned around to look at me and placed the scale on the lawn. She then closed her eyes and raised her palm at the scale. In her hand was a small fireball that started as a tiny star and grew bigger, eventually becoming the size of a billiards ball. And with that she smashed down onto the dragon scale.

“BOOM!”

The fireball was only the size of a billiards ball, yet when it made contact with the scale it exploded like a massive bomb went off. The fire spread into the air and almost burnt my hair, leaving a burn mark on the green lawn.

“Fu... Fu... Fu” Lucia was sweating and panting heavily after using her magic, while I was scrambling to put the fire out. God damn it miss! Could you please not try such dangerous experiments on the lawn? Do you realise that if it spreads, we’ll both be dead meat!?

I slapped something hard with my palm and paused for a moment before brushing aside the dust. The dragon scale didn’t even have a scratch and was glowing brightly on the lawn. Lucia’s fireball definitely hit it, and the power of it was needless to say, explosive. But there wasn’t even so much as a hint of damage on it. There was only a bit of dust which if you blew away would look as good as new.

“See? Earth Dragons are creatures that are protected by magic. Our magic is completely ineffective against them, unless the magic is on the level of high priests.” Lucia wearily leaned onto my chest and continued: “If it was just one of them, then we could ask the high priest to slay it, but we’re not facing one... We’re facing hordes of them! There’s at least 20 of them. We don’t have 20 or so high priests, and you’ve seen for yourself how tired we are after casting magic. The high priest can’t beat that many of them.”

“D-don’t blades work on them?”

“Here’s a dagger.”

Lucia suddenly pulled out a dagger from behind her for me. Where exactly did that dagger come from? I feel like my life is in danger if I hang around you...

I took the dagger and pointed it towards the scale, and stabbed down on it.

I heard a crisp sound and knew something wasn't right. Cutting it with the dagger was akin to trying to cut a rock with it. It had no effect. The scale was so smooth, my blade just slid along. There was no way I could've damaged it.

"Do you get it now? That's why I said we have no way of dealing with groups of Earth Dragons. If you were to say to me that they destroyed our capital, I'd believe you without a shadow of a doubt. It's a miracle if you can return alive after encountering one."

Lucia stretched out her arms knelt down by my shoulders and hugged me. She softly said: "Don't do anything stupid... If the palace gets destroyed, we can rebuild it. If we lose the capital, we can move. But there's only one you..."

Chapter 03 (Uncensored)

“Come, my son, let me help you wash.”

Mom gently hugged me, and gently scrubbed my arms with a sponge while smiling. The bathrooms of elves were probably created with their lifestyle in mind. It wasn’t not a tub of water, but a river, and on both sides of the river were dense woods.

Mom hugged me as soon as we got into the water and began to scrub me without any explanation. Of course I thought about resisting, but for whatever reason, once I entered the water, I felt like I was in a trance and couldn’t move despite my mind being fully aware of what was happening. My body just wouldn’t budge. I couldn’t even blink, let alone shift my gaze.

Mom scrubbed my body with the sponge while she continued hugging me. I watched on with worry as her hands slid across my naked body. This is too stimulating even if she’s my mother! Further, she’s the mother of the owner of this body, but to me... She’s just a hot milf with a smokin’ bod! I don’t feel any ethical constraints holding me back!

You could’ve just scrubbed my back, why do you want me to face you? I’m facing an everyday crisis and yet I have to control myself.... It’s killing me!

“Come closer, I’ll scrub your legs.”

It’s fine, I’m good!! Don’t! Don’t touch me there!! Mom’s hand slid downwards, and she pulled me in even closer with her hand on my back. I fell into mom’s embrace at full force, and of course, collided with her firm and warm boobs. My hands that couldn’t move grabbed onto her boobs...

I can’t handle this torture.... Just kill me now....

“Oh? Hehe, you naughty boy...”

Mom giggled before poking my forehead and pulled me even tighter into her embrace. I beg you, let me go, okay? This isn’t my fault! I wasn’t the one who

started this.... I can't even move for crying out loud! Why is my body that's so nimble on land like a rock in water? I can't control my body. Now I understand why mom always needs to help me wash. If she weren't here, I'd just drown.

"Has the side-effects of your mana going berserk not healed yet...?"

Lucia then swam over to me from behind. Elves can swim really fast like fish.... Perhaps it's related to their magical powers. She leaned onto my back like a dog taking a break on a rock after a swim. I don't really care about that, but please rest on me with your back and not the front of your body. Please! Your boobs aren't as spectacular as mom's, but they're still boobs!

Wait. What did you say? Mana going berserk? Me?

Mom let out a heavy sigh and said: "Yeah. The condition can be alleviated, but there's no permanent cure for it.... It's all my fault... It's all my fault that you're suffering.... It's all mommy's fault... You can't even do something as simple as wash yourself because of me...."

Could you please explain why I can perform much more complex tasks, yet can't do something as simple as cleaning myself?! Mom skilfully scrubbed my legs, but it looked like she was aware of her role as a mother and nothing dramatic like touching something she shouldn't touch happened, and then...

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Lucia who was resting on my back suddenly moved, and said: "Your highness, I've always been curious about something."

Mom smiled. She leaned her head to one side, and asked: "What do you want to ask, Lucia?"

"Umm... I want to know about that part on Troy's lower body that's different to ours. What's that thing supposed to be used for? And..." Lucia dipped one of her fingers into the water while my sixth sense went bonkers to warn me that the most dangerous situation a man could face was about to happen. I desperately tried to move, but couldn't no matter how hard I tried. I couldn't even make a sound. I couldn't even groan either.

I felt a finger encroach upon my forbidden area....

Don't!!! Keep those hands there, don't get playful! This isn't a toy. It's my hope and my pride as a man!

"Oh! Are you talking about this?"

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"If you're talking about this, then it's something you'll probably use it in the future~" said mom as she winked at Lucia. Lucia paused for a moment and asked: "When will I use it?"

"Once you two vow to protect each other and be with each other forever under the ancient tree, you'll use it." Mom smiled and let go, as well as removing Lucia's hand. Thank you. Thank you so much. You really are my mother.

Mom gently hugged me and intimately caressed my face with the fine and smooth skin of her face. Mom embraced me with her arms filled with immeasurable love and said: "This is my most beloved treasure. I'll never let him get hurt. I only have this one child and it's his child. I'll definitely protect him well. Alright, son, let's get out and dry you up shall we?"

Mom easily carried me out of the water. It was strange. As soon as I left the water, I had the strength to move my body again. I took a deep breath and blinked my eyes with all my might before lying down on the floor. Washing up wasn't refreshing at all, it was pure torture.

"Troy..."

"Huh?"

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God help me...

My body had an inevitable reaction.

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I’ve come to understand a lot of things after this experience.

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But perhaps it's precisely because it's so hard to believe that I've accepted it. All this has made me lose my ability to reason. I'm just accepting them as facts.

I touched my pocket and felt something hard and solid. I was wearing what I wore when I left: a small vest, a shirt and trousers. It looks like the maids were very diligent and put all my belongings into the pockets of my new clothes.

I took something out and it turned out to be a dragon scale. I paused for a moment and let out a sigh. Well, I guess that did happen after all. Not everything was flowers and roses. The Earth Dragon matter had nothing to do with me, but I've been dragged into it now.

That was a lie. If Earth Dragons were harming people, then the campaign would lose all its meaning. On the surface, it looks like I'm the victor, but victims are still suffering from poisoning and the Earth Dragons are still killing elves. I can't lie about that, but was forced to lie about it in order to protect our reputation.

But I don't understand the nature of Earth Dragons. I don't have the knowledge and memory of the previous owner of this body. I only have fragmented images of black shadows in my memory. Just how scary are these creatures?

"Earth Dragon Scales, huh?"

A voice suddenly came from overhead. I looked up to see Lucia sitting on the tree looking down at me. I smiled wryly. I've never been able to detect where Lucia is. Lucia's magical skill is "Concealment", so as long as she doesn't appear on her own accord, she'll never be discovered. She's a definitely a first-rate assassin.

Lucia lightly slid down and forcefully pushed my hand away to sit in my embrace and snatched the dragon scale from me. Her usually sleepy eyes were full of energy as she said: "Damned Earth Dragons. They've killed so many elves

and have headed for the capital. We've led campaigns against them numerous times but failed. It looks like we need the army to join in to be able to slay them..."

"Why are Earth Dragons..."

"Don't you know? You've experienced it yourself once." Lucia turned around to look at me and placed the scale on the lawn. She then closed her eyes and raised her palm at the scale. In her hand was a small fireball that started as a tiny star and grew bigger, eventually becoming the size of a billiards ball. And with that she smashed down onto the dragon scale.

BOOM!

The fireball was only the size of a billiards ball, yet when it made contact with the scale it exploded like a massive bomb went off. The fire spread into the air and almost burnt my hair, leaving a burn mark on the green lawn.

"Fu... Fu... Fu..." Lucia was sweating and panting heavily after using her magic, while I was scrambling to put the fire out. God damn it, miss! Could you please not try such dangerous experiments on the lawn? Do you realise that we'll both be dead me that if it spreads!?

I slapped something hard with my palm and paused for a moment before brushing aside the dust. The dragon scale didn't even have a scratch and was glowing brightly on the lawn. Lucia's fireball definitely hit it, and the power of it was needless to say, explosive. But there wasn't so much as a scratch on it. There was only a bit of dust which if you blew away would look as good as new.

"See? Earth Dragons are creatures that are protected by magic. Our magic is completely ineffective against them, unless the magic is on the level of high priests." Lucia weakly leaned onto my chest and continued: "If it was just one of them, then we could ask the high priest to slay it, but we're not facing one... We're facing hordes of them! There are at least 20 of them. We don't have twenty or so high priests, and you've seen for yourself how tired we are after casting magic. The high priest can't beat that many of them."

"D-Don't blades work on them?"

"Here's a dagger."

Lucia suddenly pulled out a dagger from behind her for me. Where exactly did that dagger come from? I feel like my life is in danger if I hang around you...

I took the dagger, pointed it towards the scale, and thrust downwards.

Clang!

I heard a crisp sound and knew something wasn't right. Cutting it with the dagger was akin to trying to cut a rock with it. It had no effect. The scale was so smooth, my blade just slid along. There was no way I could've damaged it.

"Do you get it now? That's why I said we have no way of dealing with groups of Earth Dragons. If you were to say to me that they destroyed our capital, I'd believe you without a shadow of a doubt. It's a miracle if you can return alive after encountering one."

Lucia stretched out her arms, knelt down by my shoulder and hugged me. She softly said: "Don't do anything stupid... If the palace gets destroyed, we can rebuild it. If we lose the capital, we can move. But there's only one you..."

Translator Comments: Check series page for links to Vol. 1 Ch. 21 & Vol. 2 Ch. 10 Uncensored Links

Thank you for your generous donations, I will now get to translating the chapter. This button will be reset after I have delivered the chapter to you.

Chapter 04

I kept thinking about how to slay Earth Dragons until nightfall.

They definitely can be killed, and the dragon scale in my hand is proof of that. There's definitely a way to kill them. According to what Lucia said, Earth Dragon scales are usually sold for very high prices on the market since they're one of the best materials for making armour. Mom must've spent a fortune purchasing Earth Dragon scales for me to tell that fib.

Whether it's for my mom's sake or for those whose safety is at risk because of them, I must find a way to get rid of the Earth Dragons.

"What's wrong? It looks like something has been weighing on your mind."

The fork and knife gently clanged the edge of the plate, but the sound echoed throughout the huge dining room. I looked up to see my mom's worried face looking at me. I hesitated for a moment before smiling and shaking my head, and said: "It's nothing. Don't worry, mom..."

Mom's blue eyes didn't leave me, her eyes filled with worry as she sighed and softly said: "Son, I know what you're thinking. My magical skill is 'Mind-Reading'. I can tell what you're thinking. You're thinking about taking revenge. You're considering hunting the dragons."

"...You're right."

Oi, oi, oi! Isn't that ability a bit too overpowered!? Doesn't this mean that no one could rebel?! She'd know right away if someone intended to rebel! No wonder my mother is the queen. That ability is basically designed specifically for a ruler! But is it really a good idea to use that skill on your own son? Wait! Doesn't that mean that she knows about all those dirty thoughts I had about her and Lucia?!

Doesn't that mean that she knows I'm not from this world either?!

But judging by her current actions, I don't sense anything out of place. What

does her mind-reading skill really allow her to read?

After I asked her, she paused for a moment before answering with a smile: "Of course it's the shadow of the huge Earth Dragon in your mind. I can only see fragments. I need to ponder it for a bit before I can tell what you're thinking. Judging by the massive dark shadow and the look on your face, I can tell you're thinking about Earth Dragons."

Mom stopped smiling, looked at me and said: "Son, don't ever go on a campaign against Earth Dragons again. If it were just one of them, I'm confident you could slay it, but we're talking about a horde of beasts protected by magic. They're an intelligent bunch. If it weren't for the main army protecting the borders, I don't think even I could wipe them out in one swoop. You know how strong they are now, so forget about them. Mommy will take care of them. Trust mommy, okay?"

I looked at mom's earnest eyes and knew that there'd be no way in hell she'd let me hunt Earth Dragons. Even if she was your average everyday mother, she wouldn't want to let her child return to the battlefield after he barely escaped death once, so it's understandable when my mother has a son-complex. I can't even begin to imagine how the original owner of this body managed to persuade her to allow him to go hunt them. He has my respect...

"You're my only child. My elder brother grew up and left only you with me." Within the flickering flame of mom's eyes, a tear started to form. Mom stretched her hand out and patted my head. As she choked on her tears, she said: "You've gone through so much terror that you should never have had to experience. It's all my fault. I caused you all this suffering. I just want you to grow up safely and peacefully. I don't ask that you accomplish any grand noble deeds. All I wish for is for you to be healthy and happy."

I looked down and let mom scrub my hair. From a mother's perspective, she's not wrong. She's the queen of the elves and also a very beautiful woman, but in front of me, she's just a loving mother. My mother is a majestic and valiant warrior, but she's also gentle with me. I think... All mothers must be like this, right? In front of their child, they're just a loving mother.

What mom wanted wasn't a military achievement, but a child.

It looks like I was wrong from the get-go. I didn't have anything I longed for in that world or people that cared about me. My mom must be weeping at my death ceremony. For a soldier, receiving a medal is a glorious achievement, but in my mother's eyes, it's probably just a useless piece of metal.

I didn't fulfill my filial piety duties in that world, so I should at least look after myself and not burden my mother in this world.

I sighed, lifted my head up, looked into mom's eyes and gently said: "Okay. I won't leave. I won't make you worry."

Mom shivered a bit as she helplessly shed a tear, but the corner of her mouth crept into a happy smile as she nodded and wiped her nose and tears. She smiled and said: "Mmm! Good boy. Eat up and then have a good rest tonight."

After dinner I returned to my room. Elves don't use electricity for lights... Oh wait. This timeline hasn't reached the Second Industrial Revolution yet, nor do they use steam powered equipment. What they use for lights reminds me of a will-o'-the-wisp with its green-tinged light. But elves see green lights as white lights. My eyes don't detect anything strange either, it's pretty close to the feeling the sun gives off actually.

"So you've decided not to go hunt Earth Dragons?"

As soon as I opened my door, I saw an upside down face which knocked my soul right out of my body. Lucia lightly flipped off the roof and jumped onto my bed. She wore clothes that allowed for more mobility tonight. If someone with a hot body were to wear body-tight clothing, it'd be even sexier...

Logically speaking, getting lovey-dovey with your fiancé is fine, right? But the furthest she's gone so far is...

She went way further than I ever imagined!!

Could you please choose another method of appearing in front of me? I nearly shat myself there." I tapped my chest even though I was still feeling a bit scared and closed the door. Lucia casually shrugged and began rolling around on my bed, and said: "Answer me first. Are you really going to give up on hunting Earth Dragons?"

I sighed, sat down on the ratter chair, and said: "Yeah. I don't have any good

ideas for hunting them, and mom doesn't want me to go. So I've decided to leave it in mom's care. I don't want to deal with it anymore."

Lucia sat up, looked at me with a complex look on her face like she was relieved but disappointed at the same time. She mumbled: "That's nice... If the queen is going to take care of it, then it'll be done for sure, because she's the queen!"

"Is your mom that great to you?"

I smiled bitterly. If you're referring to her body, then it's definitely great. But if you're talking about political performance and the such, then I don't know. Mom has never done any work in my presence and I don't know what the criteria for judging one's political performance is."

"Be careful. Even though you're the queen's son, that doesn't mean you can be audacious towards her." Lucia's eyes turned a bit cold. She looked at me, grabbed my arms, and said: "The queen turned the tides at a crucial moment, defeated the human army at the plains and has never made a single decision that was disadvantageous for any elf before! She is one of the most wise, fair and selfless rulers of elves. Haven't you seen how we elves have managed to prosper under her leadership? We used to be a small group living in forests and mountains. The queen united all the elves and treated us equally. She's like the holy goddess of goddesses!!"

Okay. I get that you're loyal and all, but you don't need to get so excited that you shiver, right? I sighed, and said: "Then what's the deal with those Earth Dragons? Aren't they intelligent beings with magical powers? Why would they suddenly form packs and come after us? If this has always been an issue, how come it hasn't been resolved?"

Lucia looked at me, stood up on my bed, and said: "You know, don't you? The humans crossed the border and began deforestation. It's because their homes were destroyed and their holy lake was contaminated that the Earth Dragons went crazy, and want to take over the holy spring in the city. They currently roam the black forest close to the imperial capital. The terrain there isn't suitable for the main army to engage in warfare, and sending in single units is ineffective, so..."

She shrugged her shoulders to indicate that there was no need to elaborate. "The queen negotiated with humans before, but things had already happened by then... Moreover, our queen and the queen of the humans have a terrible relationship. They just appear to be friendly on the surface, so... Convincing the queen of the humans will be left in your hands. Ah... it's time. I need to go on patrol duty now."

She looked at the moon outside, opened the window and jumped out. I sighed as her dark shadow vanished into the night, and I erased from thought the question I never got to ask.

Why do I have to convince her? Am I supposed to use the appeal of poor-little-elf-prince me to convince her? As if... I may have the appearance of an elf, but in the end, I'm still a single human man... I don't have the skill to pull that off...

There's nothing left to worry about now. The problem with the Earth Dragons is in mom's hands now. I just need to enjoy my life as the prince of the elves. No matter how you sugar-coat it, I was nothing but a loser in the other world, but at least I'm a prince in this world. Looking at it, I'm happier here. Let's sleep for now, I'll worry about what I have to do tomorrow.

I undressed and put on my pyjamas. The pyjamas felt like they were made from plant fibres, but it felt really light and thin, a little bit like silk. It was a strange material, but nonetheless very comfortable. I lied down on the bed and all the fatigue hit me all at once. If there's an irrefutable truth, it's that once you lie down, you'll be lazy to get back up, and so much happened today that once I closed my eyes, I slowly drifted off to sleep.

I hazily heard the sound of someone opening up the door , but didn't give it much thought. Maybe it was just a servant... EEEEHHH? Why do I feel like something big is coming my way?! An assassin?! Is it an assassin?! Help! Anybody!? There's an assassin! An Assass-...oop!!

I felt something very familiar embrace me which woke me up. I looked at the dark thing in front of me. Mom's scent was all over me. Mom was tightly hugging me. No, not just my head. She was hugging my whole body!

Not even my legs were spared! I could feel her plump thighs against mine!

“I just can’t be at ease unless I’m hugging my son...”

Mom wore a smile on her as she touched my face all over with her hands. I could feel mom’s breath slowly getting hectic as she squeezed me tighter, pulling me in closer. She leg-locked my hips with her two legs like a spider, as I felt her warm breath on my head. Her kisses were attacking my face mercilessly.

Uhh... What is this?! What is this?! Are we going with the incest route?! You can’t do this mom! We’re mother and son! No matter how you slice it, this is not going to be good!!

“Fuu... Fuu... Fuu... Son... This is my son... My only son... My brother’s son... My son... My son... I won’t let anyone steal him from me... I won’t let that sick-perverted woman steal him... This is my son...”

Oi, oi, oi! Mom! Are you broken?! What the fuck is going on?! Your blue eyes are glowing, you know?! Do elves eyes glow in the dark?! Why do I find those eyes scary?! Trapped in mom’s embrace, I frantically opened my eyes to see her. She saw me open my eyes and smiled slyly. She stretched out her hand and wiped my eyes.

“Rest up, darling. My one and only... Beloved... Son...”

I lost conscious as if I got swallowed up into a dark whirlpool...

When I woke up the next day, it felt like somebody was pressing down on my arms... My body also felt like there were two heavy objects pressing down on it. I struggled to open my eyes, and found Lucia on top of my arm hugging me in her sleep. She was curled up like a kitten and using my left arm as a pillow, with one leg on my belly, left hand grabbing onto my pyjamas and breathing. On my right, was my mom lying on my body and tightly hugging my right arm with a blissful smile on her face as she slept. Her sleeping gown was so sexy... Lucia’s body-fit robe was thrown to a side, so right now she’s...

Completely...

Umm... I don’t mind being hugged on both sides...

But if one of them is your mom then I think we’ve got a lot of problems!!

Chapter 05

“Good morning, your highness. May the glory of the ancient trees be with you.”

Eight old and strong voices echoed in the large hall that reminded me of a giant tree shade. I looked at the old eight individuals, nodded and slightly bowed to acknowledge them.

I was embarrassed after waking up because mom and Lucia were so lax about the whole thing... The two of them acted as if it were completely normal to get dressed in my room with me present. I strongly suspect that they don't see me as a man. Actually, I think mom just sees me as her son, while Lucia just sees me as her fiancé. Is that why they're fine with being naked in front of me?

After they got dressed, we had breakfast... I couldn't believe that elves just have some strange tree fruit for breakfast... Last night there was roast meat and bread... But this fruit is so sweet. After breakfast, I followed mom to a large chamber for meetings in the palace. The chamber had Roman characteristics. It was a cylindrical room with a semi-circle ceiling which wasn't covered. There was a huge tree right in the centre of the chamber. The trunk of the tree stretched out from the ceiling, and the leaves covered the dome illuminating the chamber with a green light.

The dust lazily danced in the light beam of the sun. The floor wasn't really a “floor”, and was sprawling with weeds. Wild flowers were blooming on all sides as the butterflies flew around in between them. There were also small green balls that illuminated a green light similar to that of fireflies. These things look like the work of the construction workers and gardeners of the elves.

It looks like the exterior was constructed by humans while the inside was constructed with nature in mind, befitting the style of elves.

Mom said we came to this chamber to meet the eight elders of the imperial capital. The eight are the same eight who greeted me earlier. I don't know what

the lifespan of elves are like, but based on human standards, they look well advanced in years.

Mom sat on the throne behind the largest sun ray, smiled and said. “Please don’t stand on ceremony. I asked you all to come today because I have a matter I’m concerned about.”

One of the elders looked up at mom and respectfully asked.

“What is causing your highness grief? It’s been rare to see you bothered since you ascended the throne.”

I stood to one side and watched them. Lucia dressed in her emerald skirt stood to one side and was clearly bored and couldn’t stop fidgeting. She’s a retainer, yet she’s completely ignoring etiquette. Has she no fear?

“I’m bothered by the Earth Dragons and I don’t need to hide that fact. My son failed in his campaign against the dragons and almost died. That reminded me of how dangerous they are, so I want to order our army in the North return here. They specialize in hunting wild beasts. Do any of you have any thoughts?”

The eight elders looked at each other and the leader hurriedly raised his hand, and said: “No. It is not plausible. The Northern area is the juncture of the large demons. The large demons have always harassed our borders. We cannot recall out troops now, otherwise we may suffer huge losses. It is an implausible decision.”

Mom brushed her blonde hair, sighed and said.

“Then I’ll take my personal guards with me and personally go subdue them. My personal guards are all experienced warriors. They won’t cower at the sight of the dragons. Even if I face hordes of them, I definitely have a good chance at winning.”

“You absolutely cannot do that! You and your personal guards are the foundation of the country. How can you leave because of some insignificant Earth Dragons. Please reconsider it, your highness!”

“Do you have a good plan then?” Mom took a deep breath, rubbed her temples to calm herself, and said: “All of you are my brother’s trusted retainers. After succeeding the throne, I have not mistreated any of you once. In that

battle, you all performed valiantly. So why? How come not one of you accompanied my son when he set out that day?"

The eight elders looked at each other, their eyes frightened, and I don't blame them. Even I could sense that mom was getting angry. She stood up and looked down at them. Her milk white dress looked like it was going to go up in flames. She looked down at them and coldly said: "Oh, I see. I see how it is. I see that you're all cowards! I can smell your fear. You're scared. So what makes you think my son doesn't know fear?! Logically speaking, you eight should've accompanied him on his first campaign to guide him. Instead you threw a few new recruits at him just to make up the headcount! You're the retainers my brother trusted! I can't believe that you've all become such cowards. You're not qualified to stand under the ancient tree! Have you upheld the oath you made? My son almost died fighting the Earth Dragons, and yet you're all acting completely indifferent?!"

"Please calm down, your highness!! We didn't avoid it on purpose... We just did not feel too well at the time, and therefore could not accompany the prince!"

"Oh really now?"

Mom smiled coldly, looked at them and hugged her own arms. To make an analogy, when mom is being her usual self, she's bright and warm like the sun; right now, she's as cold as ice. No one would dare approach her. She looked down at the eight of them with her blue eyes, now sharp as a blade, and said: "Okay. You're all fine now, right? It's your turn to go hunt them for once. Show me what you've got, and kill all of those dragons!"

"Your highness!"

I saw their faces turn as white as a sheet. To be honest, these eight haven't given me a good impression. They've just kept rambling on and on about this and that, not letting anyone go, and rejecting other's ideas while they find a way to back out. Are they really qualified to be elders?

"You always claim to not fear death, but fear dying for no good reason. None of you feared death when you were young, so why are you scared now?" Mom turned around, and her long gold hair was like a long whip, whipping at their

hearts. "I order you as the ruler of elves; you have two weeks to resolve the matter with the Earth Dragons, otherwise, you can go explain yourselves to my brother! Now, out!"

"Your highness! Your Highness! Please reconsider it! We cannot lead an army at our old age! Your highness!!"

The eight of them then chased my leaving mother as they trembled. Lucia charged out in front of them out of the blue, stretched her arms out to her sides, blocking them off as she swept her gaze across the eight of them, and said with an expressionless face: "Her highness said leave. Please leave."

As soon as they saw my mother's milk white back disappear at the door, they immediately turned around, knelt at my feet and cried: "Prince! Your highness! Your highness, please, we beg you. Please talk to her highness. We... We cannot do this! We..."

Dash!!

Before I could say anything, Lucia dashed over so quickly all I saw was an emerald shadow. Before I knew it, she held her dagger against the throat of the leader of the elders and gave them a cold glare. Lucia was expressionless before, but it's apparent that she's fuming now. She said: "Her highness ordered you to leave! If you dare to bother the prince, then don't blame me for what happens next. I don't care if you're elders. Don't approach my prince."

"Uhh... Lucia. You don't need to do that..." I smiled bitterly as I stretched out my hands. Even if we don't like it, they're still elders, so we shouldn't do this. They haven't done anything bad either; they're just pussies is all. While it's true that I look down on people like them, I can understand it since they're old. I mean they probably don't have that long to live anymore, so being afraid of death is normal, and neither is there any point in them going on a hunt.

"Are you sure? Well, Okay. If you say that then..." Lucia obeyed me and nodded. Her hostile aura dissipated in an instant as she withdrew her blade and stood aside, but continued to vigilantly watch them. What are you acting like that for? It's not like they'd suddenly sneak attack me...

I feel like mom doesn't really intend to have them go to battle. I mean, what meaning would it have to send eight old people to the battlefield? I think she

just wants them to help out with resolving the issue. They're considered eight highly experienced, knowledgeable and wise people. I think mom's trying to get them to assist financially by threatening them with their lives.

"Thank you, your highness. Thank you. Your highness, we beg you, please appease her highness. We're already several hundred years old. We just want to spend our remaining time in peace and appreciating our life under the ancient tree. We have no desire to go to battle. Furthermore, what use would we have? Blades cannot harm an Earth Dragon. They... They cannot be killed!"

"Liar."

I looked down at the crying elders.

Lucia drew her blade as she stared at them out of the corner of her eyes and asked me.

"Your highness, do you want me to silence them?"

I shook my head, crouched down, looked at them, and said: "If they can't be killed, then how do you explain these Earth Dragon scales in my hand? As long as it has life, it can definitely be killed. Tell me. Tell me the living habits of Earth Dragons and everything related to them, and I'll go convince her highness."

The leader of the eight wiped his eyes, and trembled as he asked with disbelief: "Your highness... Why do you wish to know about that? You must not let something happen to you again. If something happens to you, we really will lose our heads. Do you know how many people were executed last time when you almost died? You must not let anything happen to you. If something were to happen to you, her highness really will slaughter the entire city."

"If you don't tell me, your heads will roll right now."

Lucia looked at them, folded her arms, bent down slightly, and said to one of them at their side: "When the prince asks you a question, answer it, and spare the useless nonsense!"

"Right, right, right... But all the books related to Earth Dragons are at our homes, we do not have them here with us."

I stood up and said: "Let's go to your house then. Let's go now."

I suddenly turned around, looked at Lucia who was following me and said: "Oh yeah, Lucia...". She paused for a moment, and asked: "What is it?"

"Well... I think mom put a spell on the palace doors... As soon as I leave, she'll find out... Could you take me outside via another route?"

She nodded, and said: "The spell was only cast on the door, so if we jump over it, then you'll be fine. You can't fly, nor are you as dexterous as I am, so I'll just carry you over."

Stunned, I looked at Lucia who was much smaller than I. Pulling me up from the floor would be difficult for her, and she's saying she's going to carry me over the palace doors? Please don't underestimate the doors. They're four to five metres tall. She's skilled and dexterous so jumping over the door on her own won't be a problem, but she's bringing me along for the ride?

"It's okay, my wind elves will help out." Lucia seemed to be able to see my hesitation. She just jumped up and down casually, but her jump height easily exceeded the imagination of humans. It's more accurate to say that she flew up, except she's only gliding in the air.

Say, uh... You're wearing a skirt, so could you be a show a bit more self-awareness?

I asked a final question.

"And also... I'm going against mom's will here, so why aren't you stopping me, Lucia?"

Lucia is the captain of the imperial palace's secret guard unit. They take orders directly from my mom. In my mind, she's not only my fiancé, childhood friend and bodyguard, but also a pair of watchful eyes whose job is to keep tabs on me.

She tilted her head to one side, squinted her sleepy looking eyes, and asked: "Huh? Why do I have to stop you?"

"You said you wanted to leave, so I'll help you leave. I'm your fiancé. As your fiancé, it's a given that I must support you, right?" And even if something does happen, you'll protect me, so I'm not worried."

Could you please not say something so touching while looking at me like it's completely natural? I'm starting to understand why this prince likes her. Lucia is a little silly, always looks like she's half-asleep, she's not shrewd, and has no confidants. So her love for the prince is sincere and devoid of selfishness. No one could resist her passionate and sincere love.

I stretched my hand out tightly grabbed Lucia's small white hand. The corner of her mouth lifted up into a grin. She grabbed my hand, turned around to face me, got up on her toes and gently kissed me on the lips, and said: "I love you... my prince."

.....

Sorry everyone, but I've been conquered.

I couldn't give a shit if I'm the elf prince or not! All I know right now is that I like Lucia! I'm the one that's going to marry her at the end, so who cares if I'm the real prince or not. Wait. I am the real prince!

I lightly pulled her in at her hips, and she followed into my embrace. She hugged me around my neck and I could see a blissful look in her squinty eyes. I slowly leaned over, and went for her gentle and exquisite lips...

" Your Highness...Let us be on our way!"

Tch!

You people really know how to rain on my parade.

Maybe I should've just let Lucia slit their throats back there.

*** I thought you'd all be curious as to how the main protagonist looks, so here you go.***



Chapter 06

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: I'm opening up two spots for the Tian Xia Wu Di tier on patreon, which not only gives you early access to chapters, but will also give you the right to request 2 MORE chapters each month of any series of your choice.

"Your highness, could I please ask you to hold onto me tightly? The remainder of the trip may feel a bit uncomfortable for you."

Lucia princess-carried me as she stood at the entrance of the imperial palace. If we switched roles here, we'd have ourselves a beautiful scene...

Lucia tore both sides of her skirt for ease of movement, thereby revealing her long white legs. I embarrassingly hugged her around her neck as she took a deep breath and jumped. In a split second, the strong ripping sound of the air whistled violently right in my ear, and the speed made it impossible to breathe. I don't understand why it's so uncomfortable for me when I'm also an elf. Could it be because I don't have the support of wind elves?

What came next was the crash landing. Actually, it wasn't a crash landing. Lucia glided through the air, so we didn't just crash into the ground. Lucia carried me through the air as she watched the eight elders carriages leave. Carrying me did not affect her dexterity at all.

Lucia gently landed and put me down. She just flew through the air while carrying me and yet she still looks half-asleep... Even her breathing hasn't sped up. Her physical attributes are scary. No wonder she's a captain at such a young age.

"Please head downstairs. All the books are down below."

The leader of the eight must be the most outstanding one among them. He respectfully bowed towards us and led us into his room. This must be the

hollow tree with the best atmosphere in the city. Well, I guess we should call this huge tree his house. I initially thought that this was just a decoration, but once I entered the hollow tree, I dropped my jaw when I saw how spacious it was. On the outside it's just a tree. But, inside it's no less than the size of a villa.

Elves possess really high-level magic.

Breathing in the fresh air from the green leaves, we followed the elder down his twirling staircase. He pulled out a key and opened the door. As the door swung open, the scent of ink filled the air. Even though this was an underground room, sunlight still shone through. It didn't look like the room was underground. Was this also the work of magic?

In front of us was an extremely tall book case. You couldn't possibly see the top of it. This is in no way, shape or form an underground room. It's a damn library. I marvelled at it which seemed to make the elder quite proud of himself. He seemed proud that he managed to surprise me, and said: "It took me all my life to collect all these books. Every elf clan has the books. I have some ancient books in there and I have the one-and-only copy of them, so please do not ruin them."

Lucia suddenly acted a bit anxious, grabbed the collar of the elder, and said: "Hurry up and bring all the books on Earth Dragons here."

I paused for a moment, turned around to look at her as she looked back at me. Her usually sleepy eyes looked terrified as she said: "Your highness, we must hurry back. Her highness just found out that you're gone. All of the guards are searching for you. I just received the message. We must grab the stuff and hurry back."

I shrugged and casually said: "That's no big deal, right? I'm not some criminal. It'll be fine if I just explain it to her."

I haven't run off to some faraway land, I'm still in the city. And I don't think mom would be that harsh on me. I'll just apologise and it'll be fine. It's a rare opportunity for me to be outside, so I want to collect all the information and take it back.

"Have you forgotten how scary her highness got when she couldn't find you?! If we don't hurry back, and her highness gets mad, she'll kill everyone who

came into contact with you!” Lucia’s anxiety filled eyes scared me. Now that I think about it, mom would definitely do something like that. And judging by Lucia’s expression, she wasn’t kidding.

“Calm down first. Tell her I’m with you and that we’re on our way back.”

I have no idea how they communicate but I just hurriedly gave her that command, and turned around to tell the elder: “Bring me a few of your recent books on them and I’ll take them back. I swear I’ll return them to you!”

“Okay, okay, okay! Hurry on back now!”

I just made a little trip outside, how did it turn into such a big deal? I haven’t even left for ten minutes. Mom, you’re too tense! The usual you is a wise ruler, but now you just seem like a tyrant. I think it’s best that I hurry back, Lucia’s expression is about to get worse.

“Let’s go!”

I grabbed the stack of books, took Lucia’s hand and ran towards the imperial palace like my life depended on it.

As soon as I reached the entrance the gate guard looked as glad as if he had just reincarnated and said with a trembling voice: “Your highness, please hurry back!!”

I don’t blame him… After all, if I didn’t make it back, their heads would be the first to roll. I handed the books to Lucia, and said: “Take these books to my room, then come see mo-… Her highness.”

“Okay.”

Lucia nodded and leaped up as her legs flashed past me. You tore your skirt, so show some self-awareness! And why do I get the feeling you’re not wearing panties?! Do elves not wear panties?! Why did I catch the glimpse of something I shouldn’t have seen?!

I heard the sound of horseshoes behind me. Looks like the guards have finally returned. I turned around and saw the look on their faces which looked like the look of joy when you manage to escape death. I guess Lucia was spot-on. I took a deep breath and sprinted into the inner palace.

"Go find him, you good-for-nothings!! Search the capital! Lock down the capital! He's my only son, and you people can't look after him properly?! I swear in the name of goddess Clementina, if he has so much as a scratch on him, none of you will see another day! Now get out and go find my son!"

I heard a loud shout followed by a loud sound as soon as I reached the entrance. I had a feeling that some sort of plaster type of artwork had just been turned into trash. I pushed the door open to see a few guards down on one knee as she roared at them, and the head of a statue rolling on the ground.

Yep, that's the supposed statue of the one of previous elf kings which sits on the table by the door... Lucia suddenly appeared from behind and pushed me towards mom, and said: "Your highness, the prince has returned!!"

She breathed a sigh of relief. When mom saw me, her anger-filled eyes welled up with tears in the blink of an eye. Her anger which could've burnt up the entire imperial palace dissipated without a trace in a single instant.

She pulled me tightly into her embrace and cried on my shoulders. I hugged her back as her boobs attacked me, and said: "Sorry mom. I'm sorry for leaving without telling you."

Let's put everything aside for a moment and comfort her first. I only left for a few moments, heck, I don't even remember the street and an uproar like this has happened. If I left the city and got hurt, we'd probably have new guards by now, if you know what I mean.

"Silly child! You silly child! Didn't I tell you not to leave? Why didn't you tell me you were leaving?!"

Mom cried on my shoulders and hit me on my back with her hands. Mom was really scared. I could feel all of her weight on me because her legs had already given out. I lightly pushed her back and looked at her pale face. I felt bad. I was too hasty this time...

If I act like that, the entire palace will be cursed!*

"Sorry mom, I shouldn't have left like that."

"You're my only son. You're my only one. I just want you to be safe and well." Mom's hands trembled as she touched my face; her beautiful face smothered

with tears. “I beg you, son... For the sake of the goddess, please don’t make mom worry... You’re my only one... You’re my only son... Please...”

Mom’s cry was shaky, her body looked weak, and her face was covered in tears. I embraced her, then turned around to look at Lucia and pointed to the roof. Lucia nodded and then left the room.

I helped mom onto the armchair, knelt down on one knee in front of her, and said: “Sorry mom, I shouldn’t have left like that.”

I don’t actually know what elf etiquette is like, but this can’t go wrong, right?

Mom wiped her tears with her handkerchief as she rubbed my head with her other hand. She took a deep breath in, and said with a shaky voice: “Don’t make mom worry like this. Do you know how scared I was when I found you missing? Don’t let anything happen to yourself. If something happens to you, what reason would I have to live on?”

I didn’t even leave for ten minutes... And I was still in the city, not to mention I had the elders with me. However, I didn’t mention any of this to her. I stood up, walked over to her and lightly embraced her. She hugged me around my waist and rubbed her tears on my chest.

“Mom, I’m sorry, I won’t make you worry again...”

“Uhn...”

Now, feeling relieved, she lifted up her head, and finally wore a smile.

In that moment, an attendant came up to the door and said to us: “Your highness, I am sorry to bother you, but Mr Castell from the human race is waiting to see you.”

Mom nodded, stood up, wiped her tears with her handkerchief, looked at me with a smile, and said: “Troy, do I look presentable?”

I reached out to wipe the tears on her cheek. I have to say, the skin of elves feels really good. And then I said: “You look fine, mom. I’ll leave you to it. I’ll head back to my room.”

“Okay... Bring him in.”

Mom smiled and let go. I bowed and left as Mr Castell came in. He looked like

an upright middle-aged man, with his hair perfectly combed back. His black robe didn't have a speck of dirt on it and he was clean shaved. He saw me come out, so he bowed as he smiled, and said: "It's a pleasure to meet you here, your majesty. Please allow me to greet you on behalf of her majesty. Her majesty awaits your return."

"Ah? Oh... Uhh... Yeah... It's nice to meet you, Mr Castell... Umm..." I looked at him, confused. He said a mouthful of things, and looked at me like we were familiar... No... It seemed like the people from the humans' imperial palace were familiar with me... But I didn't understand anything he said. Her majesty? Go home? Isn't this my home?"

At that moment, mom suddenly appeared at the door, looked in our direction, and said with a smile: "Has my son caused you trouble, My Castell?"

Mr Castell stood up, put on a respectful smile for diplomatic purposes, and said: "Not at all, your highness. How could his majesty be causing a servant like myself trouble? I was just greeting his majesty, and passing on a greeting from her majesty."

I then realised that the two of them addressed me differently. People from mom's side refer to me as "your highness", whilst Mr Castell refers to me as "your majesty". And the "her" they refer too, in other words, my mother, indicates that I have more than one.

So the queen of elves is referred to as "her highness", while the queen of humans is referred to as "her majesty". That means my mother is the queen of elves and I'm their prince. What's the queen of humanity got to do with me?

"Please mind your words. According to the agreement, Troy is my son right now. He's the prince of elves. He's the son I'm proud of, not her son, and therefore not your prince either. If you're here this time to visit my son, then please go back."

Though mom wore a smile, I could tell she was fuming. Her long fingers were shaking. I wouldn't be surprised if the next thing she did was fire a fire ball.

Mr Castell shook his head, and said: "Please calm down, your highness. I only greeted his majesty since we crossed paths. It would be wrong for a retainer to not greet him, so please overlook it. However, what I wish to discuss is indeed

related to his majesty.”

Mom coldly replied: “Oh really? Alright then, let’s hear what new ideas she’s come up with.”

Mom turned around as Mr Castell smiled, looked at me again, slightly bowed and said: “Goodbye Your Maj-... Your highness, I wish you well.”

“You too.”

Mr Castell smiled, turned back and followed mom. Befuddled, I turned around and walked off to my own room. What on Earth is going on? Is there something going on between the elves and humans because of me? This body doesn’t provide me with enough memories, but it sure does provide me with more than enough problems.

Glossary

*He means that there’ll be vengeful souls cursing them

Chapter 07

Lucia somersaulted in through the window, crawled behind me and asked: “Did you find out anything?”

There were a bunch of books with years of history in them spread out in front of me. I was afraid I’d damage them. I could understand the writing on them, so I think I inherited this body’s owner’s knowledge. Lucia’s small head came over from behind, as she looked at the words and said: “I don’t think any of these are useful.”

I closed the book, nodded and said: “They are indeed useless. These books only outline the living habits of Earth Dragons. I now understand their body structure and living habits, but I don’t know how this is relevant to killing them”

I sighed, and annoyed, pushed aside the books in front of me, and said: “It looks like I can’t help the elders because I have no idea how to slay Earth Dragons at this point. Why does this creature exist in this world? Scales which can’t be penetrated by blades or magic, lifespans of hundreds of years... Such a creature shouldn’t exist.”

“Earth Dragons can be killed. Her highness will definitely intervene at the end. Her magic is on a completely different level compared to ours. She could definitely slay them.”

Lucia was casually spread out on my bed. At night, Lucia is a capable warrior. She rolled over, pushed over a book and said: “Magic isn’t a skill, but a ‘command’ to her highness. You saw how it took me a long time to gather the fire element energy in the air for the fire ball. But her highness could gather all the fire element energy in the air at a single command instantly. That is her highness’s divine power. We need to gather energy, while her highness commands it.”

Curious, I looked at Lucia and asked: “Why doesn’t mom just intervene herself then?”

Lucia shrugged and said: “Because of you. After you were born, she said she wanted to be a kind mother. I’ve never seen her hurt anyone since then. She rarely even uses her magic. But she did participate in the last war over the prince.”

Confused I asked again: “The war over the prince?”

There aren’t many reasons for wars to break out: water sources, land, resources or a quarrel. But what does “A war over the prince” mean? Were they fighting over a child? Are you telling me they went to war over a child?

Lucia frowned as she looked at me strangely, and said: “How do you not know about it? You should be the one who never forgets it. That war started because of you. That was the most frightening war the humans waged on elves. Their goal was to take you.”

“Ah... No, hang on, my brain can’t keep up...” I closed my eyes, clutched my and shouted in my head: “What the hell? The war over the prince was a war waged over the rights to me? What’s the point of having me? Do I have some sort of value for the humans? Would it have been necessary to start a large scale war for a hostage? If they could capture the prince of the other side, why do they still need a hostage?”

Moreover, how am I related to the humans? Aren’t I an elf? Logically speaking, I can’t be only part-elf if my mother is the queen of elves, right?

My ears!!

I suddenly remembered. My ear-shape is that of humans! In other words, it’s highly likely I’m half-elf and half-human. Aahh~ now it makes sense. Perhaps the elf queen had a relationship with some influential human before, one with enough power to start a war... If that’s the case, then...

Don’t tell me it’s the king of humanity!!

No way! Although I’m reluctant to admit it, it’s highly likely to be true. Logically speaking, the queen could only associate with the king of humans. Maybe they fell in love and mom gave birth to me after. But why did they separate? Mom returned to the city of elves and became the ruler, after which I was born. And then the humans must’ve wanted to take me back and a war

broke out because mom wasn't willing to hand me over...

That explains that, but it doesn't explain... The reason for waging that war sounds so stupid. Why doesn't mom let my father take me back to his place? They may have broken up, but he would want to see me if they met again, right? If the king of the humans fell in love with someone else, then why would he want to bring me back?

Aaahh... What on Earth is what? It's now clear that the war revolved around me, but I have no idea what happened! Countless people died because of me, and the elves nearly went extinct. What were the reasons behind all this. I can't ask Lucia either, since "I" definitely knew the reason.

"Allow me to greet you on behalf of her majesty..."

Wait!!

That human I met today said that he was greeting me on behalf of "her majesty"... That means...

The ruler of humans is a woman!!

And my ears indicate that I'm not an elf, but a human!

Who knows, I might've been kidnapped by the elves or switched places with another prince, the queen of elves adopted me, and then she developed motherly feelings towards me. And then the queen of the humans discovered the truth and tried to take me back, but the queen of elves refused, and then the queen of humans got angry and tried to take me back by force... And my elf mother forbids me from going outside to prevent me from leaving and going back to my mother!

Now it makes sense... Wait, no. I missed something important. How did I end up here with the elves? I know mom has an elder brother. Could it be that I'm the son of her brother and the queen of humanity? And that the elves took me away after? Why would a man who's fleeing take his kid with him? Normally, only women would do that. Further, why would mom go through all the trouble of raising me? It's clear that we're not related in any way.

I don't get it. I don't get it at all. I've thought of all the possibilities, but I still don't get it. Hell, I still don't even know what race I belong to. I have the ears of

humans, yet my body holds magic power. I have the characteristics of both elves and humans, so I can conclude I'm a half-breed. But why am I a half breed? Why was there a war revolving around me? Who exactly is my father? I'm lost.

"It's time for me to go. It looks like we won't have to worry about the Earth Dragons, since her highness will deal with it. Goodnight, your highness."

Lucia bowed slightly and then jumped onto the window ledge. I put my head down and tried to figure out my identity, so I didn't pay much attention to her. Lucia's going to jump down soon, so I don't have to worry.

I suddenly heard a whisper come from the window: "Umm... Troy. Please let me add something."

I turned my head, saw Lucia still crouching on the ledge. She tilted her head and asked: "What's wrong?"

"Uhm... About the Earth Dragons... I'd like it if you could resolve the matter yourself."

She turned around, looked at me with her usual half-awake eyes which were now round and dazzling, and mumbled: "I don't want you to put yourself in danger, I know that they're difficult to kill, and I know you had a near-death experience you never want to experience again, but... You're a ruler. You're next in line to rule the elf race. You can't be more timid than others, you can't be weaker than others and you can't always depend on her highness... So I hope you take care of it yourself."

Lucia raised her head and I could see her tears as she looked at me with determination. She was begging me. I don't know what happened between them in the past. Maybe "I" was depressed because I couldn't use magic. Maybe "I" wanted to become independent, but it was evident that Lucia wanted me to get back on my two feet.

Blades can't pierce Earth Dragons, and I can't use magic.

So how am I supposed to slay a horde of Earth Dragons? How do I go about it? I failed before and I don't even have the experience from last time. I'm just a normal guy who came from a different world. How do I take on a creature I've

never even heard about before?

There are no creatures which can't be killed in this world.

I squeezed the dragon scales I'd been carrying with me for the last two days, grit my teeth and looked at Lucia. Earth Dragons can definitely be killed, there's definitely a way. I don't know what it is, but there's no doubt that there's a way, otherwise I wouldn't have these scales.

I raised my head and calmly said: "Lucia..."

"She wiped her tears and asked me in a shaky tone: "What?"

"Where are Earth Dragon scales sold?"

"Normally, merchants in the markets would know..."

Lucia thought to herself for a moment and then said: "But don't worry, we're also an intel squad. Ask me anything you want, I promise we'll uncover just what you want to know."

I nodded. If that's the case, then this will be easy. Earth Dragons can definitely be killed otherwise their scales wouldn't be sold. Since there are sellers, there must be a way to get them from Earth Dragons. They might've bought them from someone else, but we can say with certainty that the Earth Dragons don't just sprout out of the Earth. If we follow this lead, we'll find out who stripped the scales from these damned dragons.

"I want you to find out who the Earth Dragon scale supplier is. Find out who the hunter or person is. Since he can obtain the scales, then clearly he can slay an Earth Dragon. Then I'll be able to kill Earth Dragons, I'll be able to kill those hordes of Earth Dragons and put an end to this disaster."

I gave Lucia the scale in my hand. She looked at me, nodded and before she leapt out, A familiar voice said: "Didn't I tell you two not to go hunting Earth Dragons?! Why don't you two listen? Why are you trying to put him in danger when you're his fiancé?! Must he die before you're satisfied?!"

Lucia let out a painful shriek. Lucia was violently grabbed by some vine that came out of god-knows-where. I quickly turned around and saw mom angrily waving her arm. Vines from all sides encroached on Lucia and locked her in a

cage made of vines before hanging her outside the window. The vines were set alight like in ancient times when people were locked in cages and burnt.

Lucia is still trapped inside!! Are you trying to burn her to death?!

“Uwaahhh!!”

Lucia was screaming painfully inside the vine cage which was aflame. Mom coldly watched her and angrily said: “You took my son out of the palace today as well! You think you can do as you please because he loves you?! I won’t let anyone put my son in danger! No one! The next time you endanger him, I’ll kill you even if you’re his wife!

“Mom! Stop!”

I rushed over and knocked mom over. The cage broke, and Lucia’s petite body rolled around in the cage. She lost conscious and rolled off as she began to free fall from high above. This time however, she was in no condition to glide. If she continued falling at that rate, she’d fall to her death! My room is on the highest flower in the imperial palace. Below are flowers, but Lucia was in no condition to make the leap of faith.

I don’t know if my brain short-circuited or what, but I stood up and sprinted towards the window, jumped out and pulled her petite body towards me without a second thought.

Yes, I’m just a normal elf.

No, I’m a half-breed.

I can’t use magic.

I don’t have wind elves supporting me either.

So why did I jump out after her?

I don’t know!!

Even if I did time travel, newton’s laws of physics still apply. I didn’t think about the dangers or anything of the sort when I leapt out the window, I just jumped. Right now, we were nose-diving straight down. Lucia who was in my embrace was too weakened to open her eyes, so she was in no condition to protect me... The wind whispered by my ear and I could feel death coming

closer and closer. I was headed straight for the ground. None of the walls in the palace have any rails, there's... Nothing.

I struggled in order to change my body position and position Lucia on top of me as we continued to free fall. But given how high up we are, I don't think this will help at all. I guess it's better than nothing. My goal was to save Lucia, so even if I'm powerless in the end, I'll die trying.

Goodbye! I want to be reincarnated again!

Notice: Don't forget the Tian Xia Wu Di tier on patreon is still open which will give you access to chapters 24 hours beforehand (translated & edited) as well as 2 chapters of any series of your choice each month. There are only 2 spots, so it's first come, first serve.

PS. If anyone is active in the 'Novel Translations' thread in Reddit, would you please be so kind as to post the chapters as I upload them? Thanks in advance.

Chapter 08

Chapter Sponsored by Kyon Snow

“Ah, your majesty.”

Castell who was dressed in a dark purple robe bowed before me, and said with a smile: “I heard her highness was not feeling well so I came to visit her. Please allow me to see her.”

Standing at the door of mom’s room, I smiled and replied: “Sorry, but her highness is still resting so I will have to turn you away.” I noticed Lucia who was standing behind him had already drawn her dagger...

Castell smiled and said: “Is that so? That is strange. I heard elves do not get sick, so can I take that as...”

Lucia had her dagger up against his neck before I could finish speaking, and coldly said: “Stop being presumptuous, human. Her highness is doing very well, don’t go spouting nonsense.”

Castell smiled and raised his hands up in surrender as Lucia held the dagger against his neck. Even so, he didn’t look nervous in the least. To the contrary, he looked like it was calculated on his part.

“Don’t do that, Lucia. He’s an envoy after all. Hurting him without good rhyme or reason will ruin our relationship.”

I hurriedly pressed Lucia’s hand down. She withdrew her dagger angrily and stood aside. I smiled apologetically at Castell and said: “Sorry, she’s in a bad mood because her highness is unwell. Regardless of what you may think, elves aren’t rocks, so we naturally have our own ailments. The idea that we elves don’t get sick just means that we don’t contract the same illnesses humans do. Her highness just feels a little sick and should be fine soon. I’m thankful that you care for her highness, but I hope you be mindful of your manners. Please don’t

behave disrespectfully during sensitive times like this.”

Castell nodded and he looked around before returning his gaze to me, and said: “My, my. Now that her highness is not around, it looks like you will have to handle all the palace affairs. How do you feel about it? Can you feel what it is like to be a ruler?”

I smiled bitterly, and said: “No. Our kingdom is at peace, so there’s nothing major to handle. Further, I lack talent, I can’t compare to her highness. I hope that her highness gets well soon.”

To be honest, I think elves don’t actually get sick. Mom’s not sick. She’s just in a state of shock at the moment because of what she went through. And the culprits that caused her to be in a state of shock happened to be none other than the two standing right in front of her door... Lucia and I.

Mom was shocked after we jumped yesterday and barely managed to pull us up in time using a vine before she passed out. She woke up in the early morning but was still shocked, so we stopped everyone who tried to approach her. When I tried to approach her, she tightly embraced me and cried. She hugged me so tightly, I felt I was going to get crushed, and she did something nobody could accept. She tried to strip me and lock her into her vine-cage that she’d then take with her everywhere she goes...

She was out of her mind so she couldn’t communicate. Other than mumbling my name, she couldn’t say anything else. The doctor prescribed her some relaxants so she’s sleeping now.

We hushed the news of mom’s condition this morning, and yet Castell still managed to find out. If a ruler falls ill, it must be hushed otherwise it’d lead to civil unrest, and foreign countries may take advantage of the situation to attack. I just dealt with a number of matters within the palace under the pretence of “learning” because there was nothing major, and I could solve them quite easily.

Then I came back here and ran into Castell.

“You must’ve come to our kingdom for unfinished business, but as a standin, I’m in no position to make decisions on behalf of both kingdoms. Please do not fret and wait patiently; we will invite you over when her highness is well enough

to see you, thank you. I wish you a safe return, Mr Castell. Now, if you'll excuse."

I looked at Castell whose aura reeks of deception. It was best that I didn't stay in contact with him for a long time since I didn't grow up in this environment, and therefore was prone to revealing things that shouldn't be revealed. If I did, I'd probably get locked into a cage and lugged around for sure...

"Ah, please wait a moment, your majesty..."

Castell called me from behind. I sighed and turned around with a smile, and asked: "Is something the matter?"

"No, no, no..." He wore a fake smile like a merchant, looked to my sides and noticed Lucia wasn't around. But, for some reason he seemed to hope Lucia was around. He walked up to me and whispered in my ear: "I know what you are worried about, your majesty. While it's true that we humans do not understand your magical creatures, your Earth Dragons scales do get imported and exported from our end."

He retreated with a victorious smile on his face as he smiled at my state of disbelief before slightly bowing and said: "That is all I had to say, goodbye, your..."

Lucia appeared in front of him to stop him and said: "Do you think you can just walk away after saying that?"

"My, my..." Castell raised his hands while wearing a look of mockery and said: "I was just talking about some trivial business stuff between us. I did not say anything disrespectful, did I? Blocking an envoy's way for no rhyme or reason is disrespectful, miss."

"Please wait, Mr Castell. Let's continue our talk in the room."

I don't know how he knows I was concerned about the Earth Dragons, but he knows what I want to know. I already mentioned that I'm just a standin and therefore can't make any decisions related to diplomatic matters. I don't understand why he mentioned that to me. Does he want something from me?

In any case, I need to be extra cautious. The elf capital doesn't feel like home to me, but I don't want to put my mother to shame.

“Understood, your majesty.”

A few minutes later, we arrived at a relatively quiet room. Lucia stood guard at the closed door and closed her eyes. As a guard, she wasn’t allowed to participate in negotiations. As such, I was alone this time, so I needed to be extra cautious. In front of me is a veteran-reporter, I mean, veteran-envoy.

Castell smiled and sat next to me, and said: “I know you are on guard against me, but in reality, I do not have any spies placed among your ranks, so you do not even need to inspect me after I leave. However, while I was taking a stroll this morning, I found this on the lawn below your window.”

He placed a small piece of something on the table which left me speechless when I saw what it was.

It was an Earth Dragon scale. It looks like Lucia dropped it on the lawn when she lost conscious yesterday, which Castell then picked up.

“Combined with what happened in the palace before and the reason her highness was angry, I have a good guess of what happened. Your majesty, I do not question your abilities, it is just... I believe your campaign failed. I asked the elder afterwards and asked about the Earth Dragons issue. He told me that he loaned you all his books related to them, so that confirmed my suspicions. Your majesty...”

He leaned towards me and said with a smile: “You want to know how to slay Earth Dragons, do you not?”

I was left speechless. I must say, as an envoy, his eyes and mind are sly and dangerous. It’s unbelievable that he managed to correctly guess what happened in the palace. To be honest, I don’t entirely believe him when he says this was all his guess-work. I’m going to have to double-check with the inspectors after he leaves.

“That’s right. There’s no point in hiding it any further. I admit I failed. That’s why I’m now looking for a way to kill those Earth Dragons.”

He already knows, so there’s no point in hiding it anymore. He already knows the answer, that’s why he came looking for me.

Castell casually said: “Aaahh, I see, I see. Earth Dragons are quite infamous at

home too. But we call them giant lizards. They are only considered material for our armour. As for killing them, that is nothing difficult for us.”

Furious, Lucia stood up and yelled at him: “How’s that possible?! We can use magic and yet we can’t kill them, so how could you humans possibly kill them?! Blades can’t pierce their armour! Low level magic is useless against them, and they’re intelligent creatures. You can only trap one or two with traps, but there’s no way you could kill hordes!”

Castell smiled and motioned: “Well, what can I do about it?”

He then rubbed his temples and said: “There is no need to get so worked up, miss. I would not be able to explain to you how humans are able to kill them with ease even if you asked, because I do not know the answer myself. I do not come from a family of hunters. When her majesty hosts hunting events, we just hunt deer and rabbits. But in our country, Earth Dragon scales are not that valuable. They do not bother our day-to-day lives either... How do I put it... Erm...”

He seemed to be looking for a word. Suddenly, he clapped his hands and excitedly said: “Humans must be able to slay them since they cannot use magic.”

“What...?”

I suddenly had an “ah-hah” moment.

Castell shrugged and said: “We cannot use magic, so we have no choice but to find alternatives. Wood, animal skin and gold; things that you would treat as garbage and throw away if placed in front of you. But we are limited to those tools, and so we use what we have. We launch huge rocks into other peoples’ cities. That is the reason we can slay them”

I paused for a moment, and said: “Machines?”

“Wow! You live up to your title, your majesty. Not only do you understand the magic of elves, but even the machines used by humans!” Castell acted like he found a soul mate. He excitedly shook my hand and then said: “Once your magic fails you, you consider yourselves the same creatures as humans. And as humans, you lack machinery, therefore you have no way of slaying Earth

Dragons. Is it really true that blades do not hurt Earth Dragons?"

He reached his hand out and said: "Miss, please pass me your dagger."

"Don't be ridiculous!"

"Lucia, give it to him."

Lucia looked at me in shock as she pressed her hand against the dagger on her waist and said: "Are you serious, your highness?! He's a human! What are you going to do if he attacks us?!"

Castell smiled helplessly, and said: "Why would I attack our prince? I still want to be able to return home. All the lives in my family would not be enough to compensate for my sins should I bring him harm..."

I nodded and said: "Give it to him, it'll be fine."

"That... That's... Understood."

Lucia voluntarily handed Castell her dagger. He nodded and said: "Not bad. This was crafted quite well and the materials used to craft it are not bad either. The blades of elves really are something else. I honestly want to buy a few to take home. Unfortunately, the blades of imperial guards cannot be bought, while the blades of others cannot compare to ours... Please watch carefully, your majesty."

Castell lifted the dagger up and pointed it towards the scale that I had always thought to be impenetrable.

"Swash!!"

A loud echo filled the room as the dagger pierced the wooden table. I looked on, completely surprised at the sight of the Earth Dragon scale split in two. Castell smiled, then returned to his seat and said: "The reason they cannot be cut is because their skin surface is extremely slippery. Slashing will not hurt them, but if you stab them, then it is just like any other ordinary scale. As long as the blade is relatively sharp, you will be able to pierce them without any hassles. That said, their skin underneath is still very thick, so just some-blade will not hurt them. I recommend making one-metre long spears... No. One-metre long arrows."

Lucia looked at Castell as if he were retarded, took back her dagger, and said: "That's impossible! No one among the elves could possibly fire a bow with a one-metre long arrow on it! That's no arrow. That's practically a spear for us! I don't believe humans can load that bow either."

"No, of course not." Castell looked in my direction and smiled. He then stood up and said: "Your majesty, I do not have blueprints and nor do I know the method for creating them. I am not a blacksmith, nor did I bring one with me. But I have shared with you everything that I know."

I stood up and asked in a serious tone: "What do you want?"

I paused, laughed and said: "So what do you want?"

"You're not going to tell me you're helping me unconditionally now, are you? What do you want? I don't have anything I could give you. I'm just a standin. If you were hoping to receive some sort of benefits from me, then you miscalculated."

"No, no, no. I think you have misunderstood my intentions."

Castell put his hat on, smiled, walked to the door, pulled the door open, and said: "As a retainer, I must help my prince. That is my responsibility. You need not speak of rewards. If you really wish to repay me, please put in some nice words for me to her highness in a week from now. That would be the greatest reward you could give me. I wish you well, your majesty. I shall take my leave now."

Lucia, who was standing at my side looking at the split scale on the desk, and asked me in a confused tone: "What exactly was he trying to say? I didn't quite get it. Your highness, not even the previous emperor could possibly fire a bow with a one-metre long arrow on it."

"Ah... It's impossible."

I nodded and closed my eyes as I entered deep thought.

"But a machine could..."

Chapter 09

Lucia followed who was following behind me, saw me carrying parchment rolls. Confused, she asked: "Your highness, what are we doing? You've been in your room writing and drawing all day since last night. What are these things? Please forgive my ignorance, but I don't understand a thing you've drawn."

I smiled and replied: "This isn't anything miraculous. It's just a blueprint of the ballista we mentioned yesterday. Mr Castell didn't provide us with a blueprint, so I drew one up myself."

Surprised, Lucia looked at me with admiration and said: "You know how to operate machines?! You look unstoppable! Your drawings look so complicated. If you could draw all this up in one night, then the humans aren't particularly skilled."

I silently chuckled to myself. This is one of the advantages I have coming from another world. I don't have the memories of the owner of this body, but my own memories are still intact. The humans are quite skilled. I don't know how powerful the magic of elves are, but I do know that human creativity knows no bounds. Every fantasy novel has this quote: Never underestimate humanity.

Lucia, who was walking side-by-side with me down the street asked: "Are we going to the elders just to return the books?" Mom is still in a deep slumber, but if she were to wake up, then it'd be impossible for me to do the things I want. Mom, please forgive me for being so stubborn... I will take care of you until you wake up afterwards.

"That's one reason."

I stood at the front of the elder's large tree. I'm still reluctant to admit that this tree is a house... I knocked on the trunk and waited. The door opened not long after, and I was greeted with an old gloomy face. His eyes lit up when he saw me. He quickly greeted me and said: "My, my, it is an honour to have your highness personally pay me a visit. May I ask if you are here to bring us good

news? It would be nice if it were about us having to go to battle..."

I looked to the sides of the ancient tree. This fellow refuses to contribute, and yet he keeps asking me, hoping for the best. I'll bet he's already made preparations to go to battle. As I looked around, I noticed a shiny line-up of spears next to the tree. Was he drying them out or something?

"No, I'm here to return your books and pass on an order."

I placed the books in front of him, shook my head, smiled bitterly and said: "However, this is not an order from her highness, but from me. Do I have the rights to order you as your prince?"

"I am just a decrepit skeleton. I would be willing to throw my life away for you, your highness," is what he said, but to me it sounded like "I've got one foot in the casket already, whether it's one more job or less one job, it's all the same to me." I smiled, passed him a sheet of paper and said: "I want to create these things. Prepare the materials yourself. You are supposed to set out in five days. If you can create them and give them to me before then, then you won't have to go. Otherwise, you can take those spears, go out there and bring home some good news for us."

Shocked by what he had just heard, he quickly took the parchment from me. For me to be able to draw something on the level of engineers with a parchment this is incredible. I admire myself. I drew a ballista. Castell never told me how a ballista was made. To people of this era, a ballista should be considered advanced technology, but not for me, since I was a student in the mechanics department in the army. I learnt how to make weaponry and armour. I remember there was a blueprint for a ballista like this in class. From the standpoint of modern day people, this would be considered a mere toy. But I must say, drawing it just based off my memory alone was a real chore.

Moreover, the design I came up with was no ordinary ballista. I added gears, chains and standard magazines to create an automatic ballista. I just need one of them to obliterate all the Earth Dragons.

"Wh-what might this be...?"

"Ah, don't worry about that. The theory behind it is written there, you just need to obtain the resources for me. You people should be able to create this

with your wealth and man-power, right? I don't need many, just five will do. The arrows are important, so make sure to make the arrows out of steel. The more arrows you make, the better. Also, make sure they're to keep the dimension consistent... Ah, make them with dimensions similar to these spears."

He trembled and cried as he said to me: "B-but, your highness, w-we can't possibly complete five of them within five days! Even if all eight of us elders went all out, we still wouldn't make it in time. Th-that's asking too much... Even if we could produce high quality versions, we wouldn't make the arrows in time."

I shrugged and said: "Divide up the work and you'll be fine. One family work on the gears, another work on the crossbow, another on the magazine, and then just combine the parts together after. It'd be hard for you to make five ballistae in five days, but you could make tens of gears in five days, right? Problem solved, right? You guys..."

I suddenly remembered as I was mocking them that ballistae were new to people of this era. They don't yet understand the concept of a production line... Fuck, what have I done?! Haven't I just forcibly triggered the development of society here?!

"I see! I see! Genius! That's genius!! You live up to your title, your highness. You are as intelligent as the goddess! You truly are the son of her highness. A true genius! Leave it with us. Five days. We should be able to complete your request in five days! We won't be able to face the previous emperor, if we fail! May I also ask, does this mean we won't have to go to battle?"

"I'll personally lead the campaign after you complete them; you people just focus on providing me with what I need. I'll be waiting to hear from you. Oh, right, I almost forgot something even more important. I'll leave training men to operate the ballistae up to you as I'll be taking them with me. Goodbye."

I touched both sides of my head cloth to confirm that my ears weren't revealed and then pushed the door open. To be honest, I don't know why mom always fusses over my ears. I thought the whole kingdom knew that I was a half-breed, but it looks like I was wrong.

After bidding the elder goodbye, Lucia and I returned to the street. Although I technically left the palace grounds last time, I basically got called back instantly, so I never got a chance to look around. It's only morning and yet there are so many people moving about and it's bustling with noise like city regions in the modern day. The air was filled with the flower scent elves loved and the scent of food. Elves like meat, so I could smell the scent of grilled meat filling the air.

There are a lot of things I have to do now, but I want to take a stroll on the streets. Lucia had her head down as she followed me. After the incident last time, Lucia has been acting awkward around me. Perhaps she's afraid I'm angry at her, and feels guilty about it since she's partly responsible for mom's condition.

Her loyalty to her highness is absolute, even though mom tried to burn her alive. As soon as she regained conscious, she knelt by mom's bed and never left. In fact, she's more loyal than I, her son... Just as importantly, I asked her to take care of mom while I was focused on drawing last night.

It looks like she's still suffering from the guilt. I keep saying that it wasn't anybody's fault, but that's just me being stubborn. Meanwhile, she's always running to mom's side to accompany her. Before the doctor diagnosed mom last night, her magic went out of control but was brought under control after. Once she wakes up, she should be fine. I let out a sigh of relief. If something were to happen to mom and I got crowned emperor before learning to deal with diplomatic fights, I'd be dumb-founded. Luckily, mom will be around for several hundred years.

I grabbed her hands, and she looked at me with a surprised look. I smiled and said: "There's nothing to do now and mom's condition has stabilised, so let's go for a stroll."

Lucia looked at me and then looked away... Her eyes didn't look like she was half-asleep this time, but embarrassed... Oi, oi, oi, what are you shy about now? Didn't you already touch... Pretend I never said anything. I mustn't think about that! She's normally fine with holding hands or hugging so why is she acting like this today?

She just got burnt once...

That said, she still held my hand tightly nevertheless.

I curiously looked left and right as we strolled down the street. The designs of elves make sense, at least that holds true for places close to the imperial palace. The homes of the elders fit with the characteristics of elves, but normal families live in wooden homes completely covered in green. It looks like elves really love the colour green.

The stone path was very well kept and neat. It wasn't messy like the human cities of the past. Elves like neatness and cleanliness. The elves on the streets might not wear expensive clothing, but they're always clean and tidy. The clothing of elves resembles Western styles. Their clothing reveals their beautiful body lines, beautiful neck and moon-like breasts.

Even your ordinary female elf would have crystal clear eyes, their smiles pluck at my heartstrings and the way they carry themselves mesmerizes me.

Aahh~, elves are so beautiful...

Lucia tried to hide herself using me, and said: "Umm... Your highness... We shouldn't hold hands in public, because... I'm not supposed to reveal myself in public... Everybody recognises you. If they catch you holding my hand, they'll give you grief... And I belong to the Intel unit, so revealing myself... Ah!"

"Look out!"

A horse carriage zipped by and I pulled Lucia into my embrace with one arm.

Out of frustration, I said: "That was close... What was that guy thinking? What's the rush?" I looked down at Lucia who was clinging to my chest and asked: "Are you alright, Lucia?"

"Yeah....."

She nodded slightly and then looked up at me. She smiled bitterly and cried: "Why? Why is it that no matter how hard I try, you always end up protecting me in the end... In the past, and now... Why? Why can't I protect you properly for once? I'm already trying my best. I'm giving it my absolute best... So why? Why do I always bring you nothing but trouble...?"

Tears started to form in her beautiful emerald eyes. She grabbed my

shoulders and cried on them whilst crying: “Why? Why do I always cause people trouble? Her highness, you... I ... I just want to help everyone... I’m not qualified to be your wife as I am now... I... Why...?”

I was caught off-guard and paused for a moment. I never thought she was worried about these things. She’s regretting and feeling guilty. She’s placed all responsibilities onto her shoulders. Lucia is a bodyguard. She’s the captain of the unit responsible for protecting us from the shadows, but she put my life in danger. I’m so stupid for not figuring that out. I was stupidly trying to figure out what she was upset about. I never comforted her.

I’m not qualified to become a ruler. I don’t understand peoples’ hearts at all.

“In my eyes, you’re very strong, Lucia... Regardless of what I ask of you, you successfully complete it. You’re always there by my side to protect me. I think you’re great, Lucia... Really...”

I rubbed my head, smiled bitterly and said: “I can’t use magic, but you can fly like a bird... You’re amazing, Lucia. I feel safe with you by my side. I can sleep in peace at night because I know you’re there to protect me... If mom and you don’t come and raid my room at night... I’m not strong. I’m also depending on you, Lucia.”

“But... But... I’m your fiancé... I can’t always depend on you... I want to protect you... But I always put you in danger instead...” Tear droplets that resembled pearls rolled down her face, but I believe those tears were bitter as gall bladder. She wants to protect me and stay by my side. Lucia’s love is sincere. Lucia was suffering.

“Easy! Since you’re my fiancé, we need to protect each other. Isn’t it a man’s responsibility to protect his wife? Don’t hide, Lucia. You didn’t do anything wrong. You’re my fiancé. I’ll have to announce it sooner or later, so why should we care about what others think now? I’m honoured to always have you by my side!”

“Your highness!”

She violently hugged me and squeezed me tightly, as she unleashed her cries on my shoulder. I helplessly smiled as I embraced her. If I was this strong and capable in past, I wouldn’t have died single.

Oh, I get what she meant now.

That day, the prince of the elf race's fiancé was revealed to the public...

Chapter 10

IMPORTANT: Please read this before you continue:

<https://lordobsidian.com/2017/04/19/important-announcement/>

“This lady is the best perfume creator in the capital... (Chew SFX), so she can easily concoct the medicine you need, your highness... (Chew SFX) Hi miss (Chew SFX), his highness is looking for you... (Chew SFX)”

I helplessly smiled and said to Lucia who was speaking to the young lady while she was chomping away one mouthful at time on the rabbit thigh she was eating: “Lucia, either eat or speak.” After comforting Lucia, she got all giddy and happily held my hand as we made our way around, and accepted everyone’s greetings. I politely smiled at the people who approached us to greet us.

I saw Lucia look in the direction of a street store which looked like a small tavern. A very appetizing scent came from its direction. I indicated to her that she could go grab a bite from there. After she bought a rabbit thigh and some wine, she came running back cheerfully...

Where's mine?! Where's mine?!

“As a prince, it's considered bad manners to eat this sort of stuff in front of people!”

Is that the reason you're eating while you're talking to someone?!

She nodded at the lady she was speaking with, which I presume is because she realised she wasn't being very respectful. She then stood to one side and raised the wine she just bought...

You bought, so you drink it!!

I helplessly smiled and walked up to her. The lady from this elf race didn't dress like other female elves. She wore a grey robe which covered her entire

body, and even had a cape attached to the shoulders to hide her neck. She wore a silk cloth over her face to cover her nose and mouth, and thin black gloves on her hands.

We were in what resembled a large greenhouse. As soon as we entered, our face was hit with heat waves and the complex scent of flowers. I wanted to find someone with lots of experience in perfumery, so Lucia brought me here. The greenhouse was filled with all sorts of plants and flowers as I expected. We found the person we were after tucked away in a corner of the greenhouse.

This wasn't an ordinary greenhouse. In the middle was the corridor. On both sides were little gardens with all sorts of flowers. Some gardens were hot and humid while others cool. Some had rain pouring down, others snow. Crossing the corridor to where she was, was like passing through all four seasons.

She looked my way with her blood-red eyes before smiling, removing her face cloth and gloves. Her skin looked as white as snow, yet her lips were as red as fresh blood. She bowed towards me, and said: "It is an absolute honour to meet you here today. May I ask what brings you here?"

"Nothing much. I was just hoping you could help me create a perfume that could attract Earth Dragons. According to my knowledge, the leader of a pack will come out from hiding behind some special flowers and release a scent from their body, and this scent is said to attract other Earth Dragons nearby. I was hoping you could create something with a similar function for me."

She pursed her lips into a smile, and said: "No problem. What actually attracts Earth Dragons isn't some perfume, but is actually the stuff their body secretes mixed with the liquids found in those flowers. I can create what you need just by combining the two."

"Will it be hard?"

"No. It is very simple. But it is only simple now." She took out a small bottle, handed it to me, and said: "This is the liquid the pack leader secretes. Before I traded with the humans, this bottle was one I made after her highness "asked" me to. But now, its value is barely higher than the bottle of wine that young lady is holding in her hand. Humans are very fascinating creatures. In just a few hundred years, they've gained things we've never laid our hands on before."

Additionally, their blood is really tasty.”

She smiled and licked her lips in front of me. Behind her rosy red lips were two sharp teeth which sent a chill up my spine. I paused for a moment, before saying in a surprised tone: “You’re a vampire?!”

Wait, are they called vampires in this world? I don’t know... I just said it out of instinct...

“You could say that. You can call me that if you please, I am not bothered. We are just a race of elves that are cursed. We drink fresh blood because of our lust. We were almost completely killed off. If her highness did not provide us with a place to live and blood to drink, we would be extinct. The scent of blood from livestock stinks, but we cannot let her highness down. Our race does not have any particular skills, but our smell and taste are highly enhanced. For example, when you came in, my instincts kicked in...” She smiled, looked at me, sniffed me, and said: “However, I never thought you would have the scent of human blood on you. If I am correct, your ears under your head cloth are those of humans, right? Ah...”

Lucia who was enjoying her meal drew her dagger, appeared in front of her and held her dagger up against her neck. Lucia gazed straight into her eyes, pushed her dagger closer to her throat, and said: “You know too much. We only came here to ask you to make a bottle of what we need. If you know something you shouldn’t know, we’ll be forced to ask somebody else and seal your mouth forever.”

“Lucia!”

I pressed my hands on her shoulder. The lady smiled as she raised her hands and said: “Please do not worry, your highness. You and I are the same. We both have secrets we do not others to know. I cover my teeth with a face cloth while you cover your ears with your head cloth. We are fundamentally the same. Why would I sell out someone with a secret like myself? Not to mention, you are the future-emperor.”

Lucia looked at me, nodded, withdrew her dagger and retreated behind me. She picked up her unfinished meal and continued. I smiled bitterly and said: “Sorry for frightening you, I hope you won’t mind. I also hope you won’t reveal

my secret."

"I know, I know. Elves cannot accept half-breeds like you, not to mention you have killed an elf's child before. To be frank, I never realised you were a half-bred. Your mother, her highness gave birth to you and the previous emperor is your father, so I do not understand how you are a half-breed. I honestly cannot wrap my head around it."

She rubbed her throat, turned around, plucked a few flowers and put them into the mortar, and added a bit of water. I picked up a few flowers I saw her pluck out of interest. They were ordinary small yellow flowers. They looked like dandelions. I brought it close to my nose and sniffed it. It was tiny flower, but gave off a very strong scent.

Haven't I smelt this scent somewhere before?

No, it couldn't have been in the past. I never spent time enjoying flower scents before I died, and I don't believe a flower from this world could survive in the world I came from. I definitely encountered this scent from someplace in this world. I haven't been here for long. Just where have I smelt it before?

Elves like plants so I've been surrounded by flowers ever since I arrived. There were wild flowers on the lawn, a flourishing flower garden in the courtyard out the back. There are flower vases by my bed-side, and flower pots on window ledges of houses I passed down the streets. I've always been surrounded by lots and lots of flowers. How did I not notice this tiny flower?

I couldn't recall where I smelt it before, but it wouldn't matter even if I could. Even if I did, I still wouldn't have had their body secretions. It looks like the humans raised Earth Dragons to extract it from them. I had no idea when I was supposed to use it, but I just knew it could help me.

I watched her filter the parts she grinded over and over again until all that was left was a thick juice which she then finally added to the extract. To be frank, it's strange to see a vampire fiddling around with flowers. This is all thanks to mom. It's just as Lucia said, mom united the scattered elves, then gave them freedom and power.

Her tolerance and ability to be impartial is what has allowed elves to thrive like this. But it looks like elves are very fussy about lineages and bloodlines.

They don't discriminate against each other, but they seem to discriminate against other races, such as humans for example.

Since mom gave birth to me, I should be an elf. The ruler of humanity is a queen. A female king can't make babies with a female queen... How does that quote go again? I think it was: "No matter how compatible a lesbian couple is, it's not possible for them to..." Right? Or was he like Makoto* and boned the queen of both nations?

What does the queen of humanity want me for then? Since mom gave birth to me, I must be her son. Do we have surrogate mothers in this world? Isn't asking the queen of elves to be a surrogate mother a little ridiculous?

I have this feeling that the story behind my identity is more dramatic than my entire life combined. Using common sense to try and figure out things in this world is fruitless... My head is about to explode from thinking and I still haven't figured out what happened prior to my birth.

A strong scent filled the room, bringing me back to the present. I looked at the work-desk as the vampire was mixing the two together. The colour it gave off wasn't as radiant as I expected. I was a little disappointed actually. It was a clear liquid, but there was no mistake that that stifling scent came from that tiny bottle.

Lucia walked up to my side.

I guess she's done eating.

She looked at the tiny bottle and said: "This is it? It stinks."

"Imagine yourself in my skin. I've got enhanced smelling so I'm suffering the most right now." She turned around to look at me, squinted, took off her face cloth and took a few deep breaths for air. Her facial expression was saying: "It stinks to the high heavens. I'm dying here."

She coughed a few times and then handed me the bottle, and said: "Here you go, your highness. This is what you asked for. Please handle it with care. Do not spill it. If you spill it, all the Earth Dragons in the vicinity of the capital will pay us a visit. And if I am correct, there a horde of Earth Dragons leisurely roaming nearby at the moment, right?"

She giggled and handed me the cork, then said with a smile: “Since you are here to ask me for this today, I have a good idea of how your last campaign went. Do not worry about it. You do not need to feel ashamed about it. Being able to return alive is proof of your skills. Those Earth Dragons are not something some normal unit could handle.”

Sorry, but, uhh... I actually also died...

It was rare to see Lucia get angry and yell: “They weren’t ordinary recruits! They were children of aristocratic families! They went to support his highness! We’re all acquainted with each other! I won’t stand by and let you ridicule them!!”

I paused to rub my head before saying: “Yeah, I came here today to prepare for another Earth Dragon hunt. I’m going to slaughter the lot of them to avenge our warriors.”

The young lady blinked and said with a smile: “You certainly are impressive. You are charismatic wherever you go. I imagine getting me to make this is part of your plan. I will not ask too much, but I wish you success... That is if you accept the wishes of someone from a fallen race...”

She bowed, and I said while awkwardly nodding: “Thank you. We will head off now then. Oh yeah... About the payment... How much would you like for the job?”

She looked up at me, shrugged and said: “Have you not already paid me? Right now, this extract is just slightly more expensive than wine and the flower is very common. The only rare thing is my skill. But my life was given to me by her highness. How could I charge her son who came to me for assistance? As I said at the start, it is my honour to help you. Please do not worry about it. I wish her highness a speedy recovery. She may have forgotten what she has done for us, but we will never forget her sense of justice and kindness. May the gods be with you, your highness.”

“Thank you. Please at least accept my thanks. It was a pleasure to meet you. Goodbye.”

“I wish you a safe return.”

After she bowed, I turned around and said: “Let’s go, Lucia.”

“Ah, please wait a moment, your highness... Actually, please just wait for me at the door... I want to buy some perfume before we head back. I’ll be quick, please give me a moment.”

Lucia who was standing behind me suddenly pushed me out the door. I turned around and looked at her utterly confused, but she just gave me an apologetic smile and then closed the door.

I turned around and let out a helpless sigh. I then waited for her at the door.

It’s not unreasonable for a girl to want a bottle of perfume, is it?

Glossary

*Makoto from ‘School Days’ (T/N: Terrible reference... I never read that and had to read what the flip it was just to get that)

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Translated by [lordobsidian](#)

Chapter 11

Translator Comment: As I mentioned in my 'About' page, one of the things I enjoy doing and frankly am great at is music composition. So I've added a music player to the site which you'll see on certain chapters starting from now. Where I deem appropriate, I'll compose a piece to add to it. I believe it will add a positive element to your reading experience.

And if you somehow missed it, yes, these are my own original compositions. I'm going to be adding the scores and download files as patron rewards as thank you for your support, so if you're interested in either, check out my Patreon page. I'm also aware the sound quality isn't A+, but that's the reality of free software. If we reach \$500 monthly on Patreon, I'll go buy a mic to record in high quality for you.

So sit down, put your best pair of headphones on, block everyone off, hit that play button on the **top-right** and be mesmerised.

That aside, I've had a few mentions of the site being down. Yes, that happens. It's because we're exceeding the maximum daily traffic allowance. To find out more about it, check out the 'Announcement' post on the first page.

Now onto the chapter...

"Welcome back, your highness."

The guards knelt down on one knee to greet me. I nodded and said: "Good work, leave it to us now. Go take a break."

"Understood, your highness."

The guards stepped aside to make way. I knocked lightly, but there was no answer. I sighed and pulled the door open. I stepped into the room floored with

a luxurious carpet. This room is larger than mine. The left and right walls were covered with bark. Moss was covering the top of the bark in random spots. The light on the roof was no ordinary hanging light. It was like the moon outside, except on a smaller scale.

Mom's bed is made of rattan wood with silk layered on top. White curtains hung from the top. The air in her room carries the scent of flowers and fruits. Her room is what's considered an aesthetically pleasing room to elves. My room seemed to be the only room without anything to suggest it belonged to an elf. I guess mom was being considerate of the fact that I was a half-breed.

Mom laid silently on the bed in her night gown. Her beautiful body reflected the light of the moon. She looked so beautiful it was like she illuminated the moon instead of the moon illuminating her. Underneath her night gown was her sexy body. I didn't have any perverted thoughts as her body underneath the moonlight was spectacular. I was completely captivated by the beautiful scene before me.

Mom was still in her slumber despite the fact that she should be awake by now. The doctor begged on his knees, explaining that it wasn't his fault and that the medicine wasn't the cause of her deep slumber. He went on to explain that it was mom who didn't want to wake up, and therefore begged for mercy. I believed the doctor's words. Perhaps mom didn't want to wake up because she wanted to avoid everything.

Mom is choosing to sleep. It's not the effects of the medication that's keeping her asleep.

Was she still afraid? Was she scared of seeing me blaming her when she awoke? Surely she attacked Lucia out of impulse. And to be fair, it was because I was stubbornly trying to have my way. Mom is over-protective and spoils me excessively, but I understand where she's coming from. That's just a mother's instinct. I almost died once and still didn't change my ways, so as a mother, it's perfectly normal for her to get angry. I believe mom is regretting it right now. But she must be afraid of us blaming her and therefore avoiding us.

She's just like a little girl.

I knelt on one knee beside mom's bed and held her hands. Her hands are

slender, bright as a pearl and warmer than a piece of jade. I held her hands tightly, looked at her beautiful face and let out a sigh. I understand mom's pain, and I don't want to see her blaming herself. I wish she'd wake up, but I don't know how to get her to wake up.

This is all my fault.

"Sorry mom. I don't know if you can hear me, but if you can, please wake up. It wasn't your fault, and we don't blame you, so please don't make us worry. I promise. I'll listen to what you tell me in the future, I promise..."

After I deal with the Earth Dragons, I promise I won't run around causing trouble again. Playing with Lucia in the palace isn't so bad. But I can't just give up now that I've come this far.

A voice suddenly came from behind. It was Lucia who was crouched down by the door. She opened the door slightly, and quietly asked me through the gap: "Has her highness not woken up yet?"

I gave her a nod, walked to the door and pulled it open. Lucia hesitated for a moment before she stepped backwards, and said: "Stop, stop, stop... Umm.. For me to enter her highness's room is a little..."

"It's fine, come in."

After I said that, I pulled her in. Lucia paused for a moment, and then removed her dagger from her belt, and her daggers strapped to her thighs. She then removed the small crossbow on her arm, removed the rope on her head which had small blades on it, and removed her shoes... When she took off her shoes, I noticed something sharp which reflected the light... Just how many weapons do you have on you?! I know you're a palace guard at night, but it looks to me like you're on an assassination mission!

After removing all her weapons, I held Lucia's hand and walked with her across the room. She walked on the carpet bare-feet and slowly approached mom. Lucia knelt down and when she saw mom's face, tears welled-up in her eyes as she gripped the bed sheet, grit her teeth and in a shaky voice said: "It's all because of me..."

"No, you didn't do anything wrong, Lucia. Didn't I tell you this morning?

Mom's like this because of me. I was too stubborn. You were just following my orders. You're not my personal retainer, you're just my bodyguard. As a bodyguard, you don't have to take responsibility for your master's faults."

I grabbed mom's hand lightly and said with a smile: "Mom will be fine. I think mom will wake up once she thinks it through. We can't do anything other than stay by her side right now. She's my mother, so I won't blame her, nor am I in any position to, because she loves me most."

Lucia nodded, sniffled a few times and reached out her hand to touch mom's hand, and said: "Her highness... Your highness, your family has always looked after us, and her highness has always treated us kindly. You're so gentle, and... And... You accepted me... I... I... I'm really touched... I will continue to be your sword and shield. I promise to never let anything happen to you."

"I trust you, Lucia."

I looked at Lucia and rubbed her head. She smiled, walked to the door, bowed deeply and said: "Your highness, I have matters to attend to and must leave, so I shall see you later."

I nodded and said: "Alright."

Lucia equipped all her gear again before pulling the door open and leaving. I turned back to mom, still holding her hand as I looked at her face silently for a good while. Just a few days ago, I didn't feel any attachment towards her, this world, the men that died in battle or the prince. But right now, I'm the prince of the elves. I'm the elf queen's son. She may not be my mother, but she has showered me with infinite love. She hasn't been my mother for long, but why...? Why am I already so attached to her?

Is it because it's an innate response from this body, or have I become intoxicated with this unlikely-motherly-love? Do I possess an admiration for mothers like this? My previous mother was always away working. When she came home, she acted like a commando in the army, rarely showing me her kind-motherly side. Each time she showed her motherly side, I was moved to tears.

I felt motherly love here that I had never felt before. It's probably a combination of the innate wired instincts of this body and my own wishes. I

don't want to live with the burden of the lie I told, and I don't want mom to live with the burden of the lie I told either. I could never forget the hazy face painted with overwhelming fear I saw when I first woke up.

I don't feel anything towards the men that died on that battlefield. But to Lucia, mom and the parents of those men, those memories would forever feel like they happened just yesterday. I'm a soldier so I know what it means when a comrade dies. They discussed politics together with the prince and all died in battle. I don't want them to disappear from history because of a lie I told.

I was hit with a sudden thought. I will annihilate those Earth Dragons. Since I came here, I need to do something. In novels and games, this would be considered my first mission as a newcomer, right? All the conditions were in place now. I firmly believe that I'll succeed this time.

"I'll bring you good news, mom."

I stood up, let go of mom's hand and looked at her face. I hesitated for a moment, but in the end, I bent my neck down and kissed her on her forehead. I turned around right after and it felt like my face was on fire. Mom's just so beautiful. Every step closer to her feels like a thousand mile journey. The world would slow down to admire her beauty. Her beauty is unparalleled.

I turned around and left her room. The guards silently watched both sides. I think it's safe to assume that Lucia's also looking this way from somewhere right now.

The palace has a place where books are kept. And said place is much larger than that elder's, although Lucia only told me this afterwards. These aforementioned books were only accessible to those working in the royal court. This place didn't just have books; many investigation files and many secret files were kept here. Only members of the royal family were allowed to access these. Some were off-limits for even royal family members.

However as the prince, I had no such restrictions placed on me. All the books here have a spell cast on them, so if someone without the rights touches them, the spells on the books will activate. When that happens, the book will bite your hand and alert the guards. I heard that one thief had his whole hand bit off, but I'm not sure if that's true.

“I’m surprised to see you here so late, your highness.”

The librarian was old, so old that you wouldn’t recognise him if he sat by a tree. I gave him a nod, and said: “I’m here to do some more research. Please provide me with maps of areas around the capital. The more detailed they are the better.”

He gave me a nod and began reciting an incantation, and just like that, a small book appeared before me. Now that’s nifty. This is niftier than a modern-day library search system. I pulled up a chair and sat down, and lit up my reading space with a green light. This map has got to be more than a decade old, right? It’s so damaged it’s basically ripped to shreds, plus, people have scribbled all over the map. I frowned and said: “Umm... Could you please give me a more recent map? This one is too out-dated. A lot of places on here no longer exist.”

“If you are interested in the researching the changes within the city, then indeed, you need a more recent map. However, if you would like to research more about the areas close to the Imperial Capital, then this is the most applicable map. No major changes have happened around the capital in the last decade. We are not humans, so we do not just get up one day and start relocating or expanding our cities, nor would we destroy the forests on a whim.”

He continued mumbling under his breath: “This is the map her highness used in the battle with humanity back then. It is extremely detailed and was drawn up by the Shadow squad. This is the most reliable map, that I assure you.”

I flipped through while feeling uneasy about his confidence. Arrowheads were used to point out where the two armies mobilised. I found that the last battle was at the seemingly endless plains in front of the Imperial capital. By the looks of it, humanity attacked the elves position, which they successfully defended and followed up with by pushing humanity back.

Mom must’ve drawn this. It’s old and the ink is fading, but I could envision the bloody battlefield that year. That year, humanity pushed their way to the gates of the Imperial capital. Behind the capital was a gully that looked you couldn’t see the bottom of. With nowhere to run to, the elves were forced to fight to the death.

Mom set up three lines of defence, and the humans destroyed the first line, but were pushed back by the second line. I could tell the arrow used to indicate the human forces breaking our first line was drawn in a rush. By the looks of it, it must've been quite the situation back then. It was a battle over me, and yet I'm stuck trying to find out what happened from these torn bits of paper.

What exactly happened that year? Why did a war break out between the two races? Why was I the catalyst for the war? Why was a war fought? What was the war like? I couldn't ask anyone since I was supposed to possess this knowledge. If I asked, then I'd be disrespecting all the people who died in that war.

There's no way I'd forget that war.

Ah, man, I didn't come here for this. I shook my head and removed the thoughts from my head, and I moved my gaze to the left of the capital. To the left of the capital was the Black Forest. A horde of Earth Dragons are roaming around there right now. I don't know what they're looking for but one thing's for sure: they're a violent lot who could attack the Imperial capital at any given moment. I need to find a place where I can set up the ballistae and not let a single dragon escape.

I need to find a plain... Wait, no. I need to find a valley, a narrow valley, one that would allow me to line up the ballistae and block off their escape routes. Then I need to lure them to the location and then I'll rain down on them with arrows. I need to find a place that fits all those conditions. The Black Forest's terrain was full of high-and-low places, so there's bound to be a canyon...

Found it!!

Towards the North of the Black Forest at the highest peak, a small crevice was drawn as a small and narrow path on the map. In other words, it's got to be a canyon in real life. If I can just lure them there, then I can kill them for sure!

"Thank you! I need to take this map with me, but I'll return it in a few days - time!"

"Sure, your highness. Please be careful not to damage it. This map was made in the last war, and therefore is extremely precious. Please take care of it."

“Alright, thank you!”

I'll go there tomorrow! I'll go pay a visit to those Earth Dragons' future-graves!!

Chapter 12

NOTE: Will be translating this series until completion of volume 1. For an explanation as to why there's been no releases as of late, see the 'Latest News' blog post. Other than that, enjoy!

I stood up and looked up at the two rows of retainers on both sides which were as long as the length of a table, and said: "Is that all for today? You may all leave if there's nothing else you wish to bring up."

Mom isn't available, so I meet with the retainers when they have something to discuss. There are no major issues to handle in the Elf nation. Most of the topics they bring up are about taxation, natural disasters and developmental areas requiring financial funding etcetera. They were relatively minor matters.

They nodded, stood up in succession, proceeded to bid farewell and then turned around to leave. I watched as they left one-by-one. I let out a sigh, passed on all the documents pertaining to their reports today to my servant, and then turned around and asked: "Ah, call Miss Lucia over. I need to speak to her."

"Did you forget, your highness? She has to go and replenish her energy today. She is supposed to head to the wind elves temple alone." My servant looked at me, titled his head and said: "It looks like you're having trouble since no one is accompanying you today. It looks like dealing with the nation's matters has kept you busy. How about you have a good rest for now?"

How would I know that? Lucia's wind elves don't give her an eternal buff, she needs to go replenish it every once in a while. She never told me... Ah, she must've told the original owner of this body. She probably didn't complain and went to the temple alone after seeing how I had to handle all these national affairs alone day-after-day. My servant looked at me silently, slightly bowed and left with the documents, leaving me to stand there in a daze.

What can I do without Lucia? Am I supposed to go to the Black Forest on my

own? Get real~ if I were to run into an Earth Dragon, I'd wind up dead even if I rode a fast steed, since they're faster than horses. In short, I can't go anywhere until Lucia returns. I can only stay in the palace.

The question is: When is she going to be back?! I really want to know, but I can't ask! From a logical standpoint, I should know. What? Am I supposed to ask something that would cause everybody to go into a gossiping-frenzy like: "Hey, uhh, I forgot when my fiancé is supposed to return, could you tell me?" What would I do if Lucia found out I forgot about something so important and thought that I didn't care about her...?

Are elves that petty? It's safer to presume so than presume otherwise. If they turn out to be, then I'll be screwed! I imagine Lucia would be pretty scary if she got angry... She does get buffs from wind elves after all...

"Bang!"

As I was deep in thought, someone came out from the corner and collided into me. I think the person I collided into was dressed in full golden heavy armour. I felt like my nose was dislocated. I clutched my nose and picked myself up from the floor with tears streaming down my face. The person in front of me quickly said: "I sincerely apologise, your highness. I was in a rush and wasn't watching where I was going, and ended up colliding into you. Are you alright, your highness?"

Still clutching my nose, I looked at the male elf dressed in full golden heavy armour in front of me, and said: "Ah, I'm fine, Ecthe!"

He looked at me worriedly, knelt down on one knee, and said: "I sincerely apologise, your highness. I was worried about my daughter and didn't notice you in time, please punish me as you see fit."

I waved my hands with a smile, and said: "It's fine, it's fine. It's normal to bump into someone when walking, it's nothing major. I was thinking about Lucia while walking around so I didn't pay attention to what was in front of me either. We were both in the absent-minded."

Ecthe is Lucia's father, so he's also my father-in-law. He's referring to me as "your highness" and I'm addressing him as a retainer right now. But in private, I still treat him with the respect he deserves as his seniority dictates.

Ecthe said with a smile: “It’s Lucia’s fault then. When she returns, you must punish her severely.”

“Hahaha, you’re right. It’s all Lucia’s fault for making us worry.”

I laughed, then looked out the window with a worried expression, and said: “Today was a busy day, and I couldn’t accompany Lucia on her trip. I wonder how she’s doing. She should be back soon, right?”

“You need not worry, your highness. Lucia goes there every month. All she needs to do for the so-called replenishment ritual is sacrifice the head of a white deer, and then take a bath. She is highly skilled at hunting deers. The only time consuming part is getting there, but she can fly back, so there is no need for you to worry, your highness. You just have to stick with your usual routine. I will take responsibility for guarding the palace while she is out.”

“Thank you for your hard work. Though I hope you won’t turn the next corner while thinking of your daughter.”

“Hahaha, same to you, your highness.”

“Ah, that’s right. Are the palace guards ready yet?”

“They are. They are just waiting for your orders to set out.”

We bid each other goodbye and went our ways. Guards in the palace don’t remove their armour. Their armour is made from gold and the scales of Earth Dragons. Gold is usually used for plate armour, while Earth Dragon scale armour is made of, well... Earth Dragon scales. The queen provides all armour with buffs, which reduces the weight of them, and increases their defences. Moreover, by having the queen herself reinforce the armour, it signifies that they have earned her trust. Elves consider that an honour the same way we view medals and trophies. As such, palace guards don’t remove their armour.

The battle strategy for elves resembles the formation centred around the long-bow invented by the English. The archers begin by firing arrows from the frontline, then once the enemy army comes forward, the spear troops from the back stop them, finally, once the enemy approaches close range, the swordsmen charge forward towards the spear wielders. Elves are natural-born archers, so their frontline archers are deadly.

Elves form teams of three and engage in mock guerrilla warfare games in mountains and forests. They wait for the enemy to lose patience and break formation. Once they do, the soldiers charge the enemy with broadswords and straight swords.

The foot soldiers in the imperial palace guard unit are even more battle-thirsty. I once saw an elf shoot a bee down because he was annoyed. The mastery of archery I witnessed is considered the average standard for palace guards. The imperial palace guard unit also includes the most elite cavalry unit. Those wearing armour with buffs break through enemy lines, while the cavalry wearing the dragon armour follow closely behind and engage the enemy.

Elves know how to ride horses, but their equestrian skills don't garner praise. On the other hand, the imperial palace guards ride them as though they were part of their body.

They form the guard force for the imperial palace, and are also the strongest fighting unit of the elf race. The elf shadow squad are spread out within the palace. Sometimes I can sense the presence of a few, but for the major part, I can't detect their presence at all. For instance, I never detect Lucia's presence when she appears by my side. It's just as she says: She won't ever be detected unless she chooses to reveal herself.

The shadow squad takes orders directly from the ruler, so not even I can order them around. The reason I can order Lucia around is because she's my fiancé and we have a good relationship. By right, I shouldn't be able to order the squad around, but Lucia said, mom ordered them to follow all my orders because she dotes on me. This is the only reason why I can order them around. The palace guards have always taken orders directly from the imperial family, so I have the two strongest squads at my command.

They're the reason for my confidence in this upcoming Earth Dragon hunt. I can't say with absolute confidence that I'll be able to shoot them all down. If I don't have troops who can hold the line in close combat, once the canyon length is too short or if the dragons are too quick, then I'm pretty much toast. Last time, I went after them for prestige and the palace guards didn't come along. But this time, I'm going to bring them along.

Everyone in the elf capital respects mom. If we were to conduct some sort of vote, she'd easily win one-hundred percent of the votes. Therefore, I'm not worried about safety in the palace, but I'm going to leave some palace guards to protect her.

We have to keep this campaign under wraps because everybody believes they've already gone extinct. Our troops and equipment will be moved to the Black Forest in small units this time, and then we'll form units once we arrive under the cover of the trees. It looks like the lie I told last time has finally found its use.

Lucia will be back tomorrow morning. The ballistae are due to be completed in three days, so there's nothing much left for me to do right now. I paid mom a visit but she was still in a slumber. Left with not much to do, I decided to take a stroll outside on my own. Who knows, maybe I'll encounter a beautiful female elf and start something with her.

I checked to make sure my head cloth was on properly and left through the main palace doors. The prince of this country may be really famous, but nobody recognises me when I walk alone on the streets. Everybody has their own business to mind, so it's not like they can spend their days watching me.

I saw stalls selling grilled meat on the side of the road, so I reached for my pockets, but then realised that ever since I came to this world, I seem to have forgotten the concept of money!! I haven't spent a penny ever since coming here. Elves use gold coins as their currency, and I happen to not have a single coin!!

It's not like I could run up to them and say: "Hey, I'm the prince, please give me a rabbit thigh..." I'd bring disgrace to the entire imperial family! Lucia has always accompanied me outside, but I'm alone this time so I completely forgot! Do princes not carry money on them?! To be honest, I completely forgot about the existence of wallets!

Whatever, I'll just window-shop... I can't trade my reputation for a rabbit thigh...

The streets of the elf race were bustling while I just strolled around aimlessly. The buildings close to the vicinity of the palace are beautiful. They're very neat

and exude the air of nature. The buildings closer to the city walls on the other hand are rather normal. They're just timber buildings. In fact, there are some places which are already damaged. The buildings are also arranged without order. The people here don't look glamorous, but they don't look like they're suffering either. They're probably just your average folks.

Just as I was about to turn around and head back, I suddenly heard someone call out to me. I turned around and saw a girl dressed in black. She asked: "My~ it's rare to see you out here alone, your highness. Is the young lady not with you today?"

I paused for a moment before saying: "Oh, it's you. I just came out for a stroll today. Do you live around here?"

The young lady I met yesterday nodded. Her red eyes looked as though she was smiling as she said: "This is rare. In the past, I would not even see you once a year, but you've been appearing a lot more often recently. I originally thought you came out to announce your engagement, but I never thought it would be to experience life as a commoner. Are you appearing more frequently because her highness is about to step down or something?"

I smiled bitterly and said: "You probably shouldn't be making wild guesses about these sorts of things. Mom is still around after all... I didn't come out here for any particular reason, nor am I inspecting the lives of commoners. I've just got nothing to do, so I came out for a stroll." Elves seem to be really sensitive. But it's only right, since I usually don't leave the palace because of mom. With me appearing so frequently without mom, it's only normal for people to assume I'll be succeeding her position.

"We would be happy if she were to step down and be replaced. Ah, please do not misunderstand, I am not trying to criticise her or you. It is just that you have not yet accomplished anything, so we cannot help but question your abilities. There is the matter of the Dragon hunt from before, and now someone has been hurt, so everyone has their doubts about you."

I smiled bitterly and said: "You're right, which is why I'm going to make up for it. I underestimated them last time, but I have to wipe them out this time. Scratch that. I will wipe them out."

“Give it your best, your highness. I do not know what your strategy is, but I can tell you are very confident, so that is a good start. We ourselves lack power, and therefore rely on you and your family to protect us. The imperial elf family has always done an exceptional job, and I believe you too will do an exceptional job, your highness.”

She bowed deeply, then looked up at me and said with a smile: “By the way, may I ask where the young lady with you yesterday is? I require some more ingredients to complete the perfume she requested.”

“Oh, Lucia? Lucia has left on business. What do you need? I’ll get it for you. As long as it’s something that can be bought, it doesn’t really matter who buys it.”

She looked at me with her red eyes, and I caught a glimpse of her playful mood. I couldn’t see her lips hidden behind her face cloth, but I had a feeling she had a cheeky smile on her face. She took out a tiny bottle and said: “Actually, the missing ingredient is only something you could provide me with... Since you brought it up, I would you to provide me with your hair, fresh blood and saliva.”

“Are you really making perfume?”

She gave me a surprised looked. She squinted her eyes, laughed out loud and said: “Haha... I know it sounds strange, but I really do need them to make perfume. I will not ask her for her opinion. I am just doing as she asked. So, please give me your hair, fresh blood and saliva. I am going to mix them into this tiny bottle...”

Erm...

I’m fine with giving you my hair and blood, but...

I don’t think spitting is something a prince should do in public...

Chapter 13

“Your highness! Your highness! Ah...”

An imperial guard woke me up as though a fire had broken out. I opened my eyes while trying to distinguish left-from-right, top-from-bottom when I saw him standing in front of me in a very awkward manner. Someone was on top of me. Let me correct myself there. There was someone lying next to me, and had me locked in her embrace with her long white leg boldly wrapped around my waist.

Lucia's head was placed on my neck, and I could feel her slow and steady breath on my skin, while She locked me tightly in her embrace with her arms. No wonder I had dream of a whale squashing me. To be fair, the way she embraced me wasn't a problem, since we were engaged anyway, and sleeping together wasn't an issue either. The problem though, was that there were bits of clothing tossed to the side of my bed. Lucia must've returned in the early morning, somersaulted into my room, stripped herself, and then jumped into my bed...

If she were sleeping with her clothes on, we wouldn't have a problem, but she's sleeping naked so we've got a massive problem! This guard has seen what shouldn't be seen, so I could have him executed for it. He turned around, knelt down and said: “I deeply apologise, your highness! I had something urgent to report, so I stormed in right after I knocked! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry! I'll leave now!”

I stretched my hand out to stop him and struggled to get Lucia off me. I covered her with the blanket and said: “Wait... Don't you have an urgent matter to report? What is it? Go ahead and tell me. Don't worry, I'm not angry. It's urgent, so do tell me.”

“Understood... Thank you, your highness! Umm... Well... Our recon unit has discovered that the situation concerning the Earth Dragons may have gotten

troublesome. Based on their movements, and the fact that they are coming together, we suspect that they plan to attack the capital by attacking the West city walls."

"Why would they attack the walls of our capital? They're not soldiers... Wait... The holy spring..."

The holy spring is located in the inner parts of the imperial palace and is heavily guarded. Normally, not even I would be allowed to enter without a legitimate reason. They must be looking for a better habitat after having theirs destroyed. They've set their eyes on the holy spring. The holy spring is nature's gift, but it's also the source of power for elves, so we can't let them destroy it.

I pondered it for a moment. Why did the Earth Dragons start preparing for an attack today of all days? They've been roaming the Black Forest up to now as they usually do, which gave me time to make my own preparations. But judging by the current situation, it looks like we'll have to hurry and set out. The only location where I'll have a chance of killing them is the canyon located in the Black Forest.

If they leave the Black Forest and enter the plains, then GG me. If a horde of them attack us, they'll destroy the walls in one fell swoop. I nodded. There were only two days left since the day I passed down my orders. I gave the elders five days, but I don't know how many they've got operational right now, but I ordered them to give it everything they had to manufacture as many as possible. In the worst case scenario, we should have at least three, right?

If they don't even have three ready, then I seriously will put them on the front line as meat-shields.

"Alright, I'll get out of bed right now. Order all the imperial guards I've ordered, to get equipped. Order them to leave the palace in small units and rendezvous at the designated point."

The guard nodded and ran out of my room. I looked at Lucia who was still enjoying her blissful sleep and sighed. She must've just returned. She hunted alone and didn't get any rest. I originally intended to stay home and spend the day with her today, but it looks like fate has decided to throw a wrench in my plans.

“Lucia... Lucia... Lucia, wake up, wake up, we’re heading out. Lucia...”

“Hmm...”

She twitched around on the bed out of annoyance, tightly hugged my head, and said: “Let me sleep a little longer... Just a little longer...”

My head got wedged in between her two soft and warm mounds. Her boobs aren’t as big as mom’s but they’re still decent, not to mention, the skin of an elf is slippery and supple. Moreover, she had a nice fragrance on her. I took in a deep breath, and my brain hummed. You know... My body was reacting the way it does every morning...

If I turned my head, my hair would’ve brushed against her most sensitive parts... I’m a normal man so... When a girl clings to me, not to mention she was a girl with an overly sexy body and beautiful skin being, and the fact that she’s my fiancé... How could I possibly resist...?

No, I mustn’t do this!

Now is not the time to be doing this sort of stuff. As a soldier, I must always uphold the three rules, and keep the eight codes in mind. I must resist the temptation! I must focus on serving the people! How can be doing this sort of stuff when the enemy is encroaching upon us?! I mustn’t do this. This isn’t something a soldier should do!

I violently broke free of her, wrapped her in the blanket and tried my best to wake her up. She let out a shriek, opened her eyes and angrily said: “Is something the matter, your highness? I just managed to get some shut-eye. Please let me have a rest today. I hunted a deer yesterday, and then I had to lug it to the temple...”

“Wake up. I’m sorry to wake you, but we’ve got trouble. The Earth Dragons are banding together. We can’t wait any longer, we have to leave now.”

“Alright.”

As soon as she heard the words “Earth Dragon”, her eyes opened wide. This is the first time I’ve seen her fully open her eyes. Her emerald eyes lit up like a wolf’s in the night and was filled with blood thirst. She nodded and then returned to her usual sleepy-eyes expression, and said: “Your highness, get

changed. My..."

"Your clothes are right here."

I pointed towards her clothes and she responded with a nod. She threw off the blanket in front of me without a single care, picked up her clothes and got dressed. She was wearing her leather armour, which was different to the clothes she wore at night. It's a tight-fit, but it was distinctively armour, not clothes. She picked up her machete and strapped it to her hip. Then she put on her shoes, strapped her bow and arrows to her back, tied her hair into a ponytail, grabbed my hand, and said: "Let's go, your highness. I'm ready. But before you leave, you need to put on some armour."

"Me?"

My hand holding my coat froze in place. She was right. I needed armour since I was going to battle, and so I took up my arms. But where would I get armour from? Lucia looked at me and then walked up to my wardrobe and pulled it open. She rummaged through it and pulled out a very nice leather armour. However, contrary to what I imagined, it was thin. Thin as a piece of cloth. But it definitely felt like leather.

"This leather armour was made from dragon skin. It may be thin, but even the most powerfully fired arrow won't pierce it. Wear it inside."

She put the armour on for me and took out a short green robe. The back of the robe was really long. It was split down the middle like a dove's tail and came down to my knees. It draped around my shoulders and came around to the front of my legs and split at the hips. On the chest was a green front shawl, which had the smell of elven trees. The long red cloak on the back fluttered in the wind, but the gold thread on it had signs of wear-and-tear.

When Lucia took the robe out, her eyes were filled with awe. She handed me the clothes very formally with her head down like she was holding an infant or the country in her hands. This robe must've symbolised the soul of the elf race, something which was to be treated with the utmost respect.

"Please put this on, your highness! Please do not forget the courage of the previous king, and the gift of the gods! Gods, previous kings, I ask that you bless his highness with glory and protect his life, the heart to overcome the ups-and-

downs to protect the tree forever. Never forget the people watching over you. We will soak the cloak with the blood of our enemies, and nourish the tree of life with the bodies of the enemies. Please do not forget the glory of the elf race and your own. Please do not forget the blessings of the gods. As the wearer of the armour, you will return victorious with this armour, or be buried with it!"

I don't know what I should do, because I've never had to shoulder such a heavy burden before. Once I put this battle robe on, I'll be carrying the weight of all the lives of the elf empire on my shoulders, and the hopes of the entire race. It's just as Lucia said: Either I return triumphantly in this armour, or perish with it in battle.

My body reacted on its own. I doubt that was due to my own thoughts, but rather the owner of this body, the prince of the elf race. It must've reacted out of a sense of responsibility. He was bent on making up for his mistakes, and standing up for the people who suffered for his sake. The people's king, the acknowledged king and the blessed king. The king must protect his people. When the lives of the people are threatened, all kings must come to the forefront wearing this battle robe and lead the charge.

I was hesitant, but the prince clearly wasn't.

I bent over and accepted the robe. I calmly wore it on, adjusted it so that it was on properly, and sonorously pressed the huge world tree crest against my chest. I felt my heart beats and the cape behind me flutter. My body warmed the battle robe, the robe soaked with the blood of countless foes.

In this very moment, I'm carrying the honour of the entire imperial family. I failed last time, but I won't fail again. This is my responsibility as a king. Since I was reincarnated into this body, I have a responsibility to shoulder his burdens, which includes both mom's gentleness and Lucia's love. This time, I will inherit the glory and majestic power this body was meant to inherit.

Once I put the battle robe on, I felt a strange warm energy flow through my body. Was it the blood or courage and burdens of the previous warriors who wore it? I could see the wars of the past, battlefields filled with roars, and rivers of blood. The sky was covered by smoke and dust, while the air was filled with the scent of blood.

Everything in the past was displayed to me via this robe.

Elves may love peace, but that doesn't mean they fear war. Elves have never retreated from the battlefield before.

I looked at Lucia, took a deep breath, and said: "Let's go."

She nodded, took out a machete, attached it to my belt, and said: "This blade is to be wielded by the commander. Her highness wielded this very blade in the last war. This time, it's your turn to wield it, your highness. Last time, you treated it as a hunting game and was completely unprepared, but not this time. Seeing you like this, we understand that this is war, not a game."

I gave her a nod, brushed my cape aside, and pulled the door open.

As soon as I opened the door, I heard the clanging of metal. The sun shone from the large window and onto the rows of golden metal. Gold itself is cold, but I could feel the heat of the blood and honour of the warriors exuding from their armour. The palace guards formed rows and knelt down on one knee with their right hand placed on the chest, as they looked up at me solemnly with dignity.

My relationship with them in the past wasn't bad, but this is the first time I've seen them look at me with respect. The usual me is nothing more than a prince, but right now I was a unit commander. The palace guards in front of me right now are the ones who'll be staying behind in the palace. They won't be joining my campaign, but they knelt before me nonetheless.

They weren't greeting just me, but also the traditions and glory of the elves, the past heroes and their current commander. They were greeting the new heroes who were about to set out.

"Please rise. Please fulfill your duty to protect the imperial palace and her highness."

"Understood!"

The steady sound of all the elves in the corridor echoed as they stepped aside to make way. I made my way through the crowd with Lucia and stopped by the door to mom's room. I looked at the timber door and took a deep breath.

“Go let her highness know. If she knows you’re heading out to battle, she’ll be worried sick.”

“That’s precisely why I don’t want to see her.”

I lowered my hand that I was about to knock with and gently placed my hand on the door. I sighed and said with a smile: “Let’s go, Lucia. I’ll bring back the head of an Earth Dragon to appease her.”

“Wouldn’t it be too big to bring back? How about bringing back something else for her?”

Lucia smiled and held my hand, and I responded by holding hers tightly. My glove separated our hands, but I could still feel the warmth of her hand nonetheless.

Lucia who was following me down the stairs, said: “Your highness, your job is to protect the country. Mine is to protect you. Just as you will give it your all in this battle, I will do my best to protect you. I once questioned the direction I was walking in, but I now know my own abilities and the direction I wish to go.”

The sun shone on us like waves hitting the shore. The sunrays inhibited my vision a little. Lucia, who was standing beside me and holding my hand, looked like she was coated in a warm-golden light. She looked at me with her emerald eyes which were filled with gentleness and determination, albeit looking half-asleep.

“To repay your gentleness and love, I would like to ask you to let me hold onto the drug we will use as bait.”

Chapter 14

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE: Please follow <https://www.facebook.com/lordwujizun/> for updates on news and releases. It'll be where I provide updates if the website is inaccessible for whatever reason. Guys... You guys are nuts lol. The website got dropped again for exceeding daily traffic allowance, yes, that's AFTER I've gone and increased the bandwidth. I posted the full explanation from their technicians on the Facebook page, check it out. It's only been 4 hours... I legitimately don't have the funds for the next upgrade up.

I scanned the Black Forest carefully for the first time.

I can now see why this place is called the “Black Forest”. The forest is covered with huge trees which are easily close to one-hundred metres tall. You would need several people to surround a tree trunk. The lush leaves overlay one another almost blocking out the sun entirely. The dead branches and leaves covering the floor have been left there for ages. Water bubbles formed in the ground as the horses tread along. All the rock faces were covered in moss, so even the horses slipped if they weren't careful.

The air carried a wet and stinky stench. This place would be heaven for microbes and decomposed things. Sunlight would never reach the floors of the forest unless it was winter. Catching some sunlight every now and then was like finding new land to me.

The small animals in the forest moved in-and-out of the branches as they watched us uninvited guests with curiosity. It was still early morning and since there was no sunlight, it was freezing in the forest. I took everything but the climate into consideration. I moved forward slowly on my horse. The elves around me didn't look bothered by the climate.

Only I was feeling cold!

I sent five scouts go find the location of the Earth Dragons as our main force made its way towards the canyon. Our unit comprised of about one-hundred men and the three horse carriages behind us. The elders were only able to manufacture three ballistae due to the time constraint. But the worst part was that they hadn't made any arrows. Given the circumstances, I grabbed all the spears that they originally prepared to use for the arrows. As long as they fit into the magazines, I grabbed them.

Consequently, our ammunition was very limited. It might've been enough if we were using ballistae which fired arrows one-by-one, but I added a burst fire device, which would make it like a rifle, except fired by a machine. By my estimations, we only have enough for one burst. If that's how it plays out, then we'll have to kill the remaining Earth Dragons with our own hands.

We couldn't move fast because our horse carriages would likely flip if we tried to move fast along the paths covered with moss. To add to it, we hadn't explored the paths before either. That said, our timing was pretty good. The Earth Dragons had begun grouping up, but they hadn't advanced on our city yet. According to the map, the canyon was just ahead, and we should be able to circle around to the two sides of the canyon. I stretched my hand out to order everyone to stop.

"Ballistae unit, go right. Circle around to the other side of the canyon. The high priests are here, right? Alright, could you please slowly make your way leftwards? Once you find the narrowest part of the canyon, please take a look at the rocks on both sides. If you can't knock them down in one attack, please knock them loose. Lucia, come with me."

I brought two high priests from the palace with me this time, both of whom seemed very impressive. They look older than the eight elders. Upon hearing about this campaign, they offered to personally support me. I should use them as exemplary examples to show those eight elders what being responsible means. There's a reason why you eight can't become high priests. Your efforts to uphold morals are insufficient.

My plan was straight-forward, lure them out with a decoy and then spring on them. My plan was to use the bait drug to lure them out and into the canyon. From there, we would blow up this side of the rock face to block-off their

escape route, and then fire at them with the ballistae from the other side. The plan was to kill them all using the ballistae, but in case that didn't work out, we were going to personally kill them with the spears ourselves. If we got separated, I'd dig holes and fill them with spikes. That was sure to get them.

I only had one-hundred men, but I think it'll be an easy task for them since elves can use magic.

The only question left was who was going to go and lure the Earth Dragons out. To be safe, I needed them to get close to the dragons' den, spread the drug on their own body and then run back. That was the most dangerous task, because as I said, they run faster than horses. Further, the fact that we were in a forest and that the floor surface was extremely slippery meant that the steeds were bound to move slower, so the chances of getting crushed by a dragon were much greater.

I originally intended to spread the drug among all of us, and use a chain-system where one person would put it on themselves, lure them out, run for their life towards us, pass it on to the next person, and repeat the process like a relay until the dragons were where we wanted them. But if I did that, then the scent wouldn't be strong enough to lure enough of them. So the best option was to have one person go and lure the hordes of Earth Dragons. Said person would have to either be an extremely skilled equestrian or be fast enough to outrun the Earth Dragons.

Lucia therefore volunteered to play that role. Lucia was a great candidate. She had the buffs provided by the wind elves, she could control the direction the wind blew to ensure the scent reached all the Earth Dragons, she didn't require a steed, she had the agility to move freely through the forest, and she could leap off the trees so she wouldn't have to worry about getting stomped on by the Dragons. She was the perfect candidate no matter how you look at it.

But, I still had my qualms.

If she slipped up, she'd be a goner. The memory of my comrades' corpses who got stomped on are still clear in my mind. I still haven't forgotten the look of despair and pain on their faces when the dragons stomped on them. And that time, they weren't carrying the bait drug. This time they were all going to target

Lucia. Should she slip-up, that'd be the end of her.

I was hesitant. I couldn't decide if I should get Lucia go. She was the best candidate, but I couldn't stand the thought of her life being in danger.

The two of us rode our horses up to the mountain peak. There were no trees at the peak. Standing on the rocks at the peak, we finally saw the canyon in its entirety. It was a long and narrow canyon. Given that it was so narrow, lining up the three ballistae would be enough to block up the exit. Based on the size of the Earth Dragons, I reckon only two would be able to squeeze past.

It wasn't ideal because once the Earth Dragons in the front row die, the ones in the back will use their corpses as shields to move forward, which would cost us lots of arrows. And if the Earth Dragons got close enough, then we'd only be able to stab the corpses directly in front of us.

In other words, I need to fight them in a space where they can be lined up in rows of four. The centre of the canyon was wider. The canyon was narrow at the ends and wider at the centre. I originally intended to block off the exits, but looking at it now, we have no choice but to kill them at the centre. The dragons won't be able to always use the corpses to move forward if we engage them in the centre.

Once we lure them in, we can split up into smaller units to take them on or force our way forward on horseback in a Macedonian Phalanx formation. However, based on the physiques of elves, I'd surmise that it would be easy to break our formation... The frustrating problem was that I didn't have any alternative solutions. I could only pray that my imperial palace guards are strong enough to hold them back.

Lucia gazed the far into the distance as she rode beside me. She didn't wear any expression and looked like she was half-asleep, but I knew she was deep in her own thoughts. She was thinking about how to return from the Earth Dragons' den. I never promised to let her act as the bait, but she insisted on it.

A soldier approached me on my left, and said: "Your highness, the ballistae have been set up."

"Change of plans. Move the ballistae to this area where it's wider, and set them slightly behind this area."

“Understood.”

“We’ve also located a good spot to seal the exit.”

That was the elder’s voice which was carried to me by the wind. Using magic to communicate sure is efficient. I nodded. Now, there was just one last thing to do... Enter the dragons’ den and lure them out.

Lucia tightened her grip on the rein of her horse, turned around to face me, and said: “Please hand me the bottle, your highness. I’ll go now.”

“That method is a little dangerous. Give me a moment to see if I can come up with a better plan... For example, sprinkling it on the floor or something...”

No, that wouldn’t work. There’s not enough of the drug. I’ve only got one tiny bottle, not a big barrel worth. Come to think of it, if I actually did have a big barrel worth of it... The city walls would probably have been destroyed already. I frowned and racked my brains. What’s another way to lure them out without using someone as bait?

Sorry...

Nothing comes to mind...

“Reporting! The Earth Dragons have begun to move! They’re moving towards the capital!”

It wasn’t long before all the scouts I sent out came reporting back to me in their loud voices. To be honest, we’re just responding to the best of our abilities as circumstances arise, and right now, I don’t have the luxury of time to think. We either use the chain-system where one person attracts them, then as they gas-out, the next person takes over in a relay fashion, or Lucia does a solo-run.

While I was hesitating, a sudden gust of wind blew against my side. My horse panicked and almost threw me off. I tightened my grip on the rein instinctively to prevent myself from falling, and just as I managed to regain my balance, a blurry shadow flashed past me from behind.

My entire body turned cold.

Once the wind settled, my stuff on the back of my horse was gone. I reached for my belt and found that the precious tiny bottle containing the bait drug

inside the pocket of my belt was gone.

I just can't stop Lucia.

I sighed as I looked into the distance and said my prayers. I hope Lucia returns safely.

I went around the small mountain and arrived at the canyon below where the three ballistae were set-up and aimed at the entrance. The elves were busy organising the spears, which are now arrows and slotting them into the magazines. Our limited ammunition made me shake my head. If I had another five days, I wouldn't even need the imperial palace guards. I could just set up the ballistae at high-strategic points and rain down on the Earth Dragons with arrows. Plus, I'd have enough ammunition to annihilate them.

But by the looks of things, I think fighting the Earth Dragons head-on is unavoidable. By my estimation, our ammunition won't last longer than a minute.

"Take a few men, head to the exit, dig deep holes and put some spears down there. Remember to cover it properly."

After I passed down my orders, I moved the front of the ballistae and touched the wooden ballistae. This was actually the first time I'd seen it. They did a good job making them. They're definitely up to standard, but I just can't get used to Elves using a human invention. It's a miracle they were able to understand my blueprints and produce them accordingly.

The captain of the imperial palace guards walked up to me and asked: "Is this alright, your highness?"

I shook my head and replied: "I can't guarantee that we can kill them all with the ballistae. I need all of you to get into formation behind the ballistae. Form a formation like this: This place is relatively small, so have four spearmen kneel down in front, have the spearmen in the second row hold their spears on their shoulders..."

I crouched down and excitedly drew on the ground. Watch closely and learn properly. This is precious knowledge humanity accumulated from their battles thousands of years ago, you know? Do you know how bad-ass this stuff was

back then? You elves are still too young and simple-minded...

The captain cut me off and asked: “So form a square-like spear formation, right?” He crouched down and finished drawing the part I had yet to finish...

“Ah... Yeah...”

I looked at him with a surprised look while he looked back with a helpless expression. It was like when a tutor tries to teach a student some advance materials, only to find out the student already knew it... I treated him like an idiot, and ended up making myself look stupid...

Fuck! This is awkward now...

I forgot that the elves have technology more advanced than during King Alexander’s rule, so of course they’d know battle formations and strategies from back then. I took them for idiots... They should know the Macedonian Pahalanx Formation as well. As long as they had good team work, they could pull it off. Elves must’ve created these formations themselves in the past.

“Understood.”

The captain left to go and organise the formation. The imperial palace guards brought four-metre long spears with them this time. It’ll work out if they fight the Earth Dragons as if they were a cavalry unit. What I’m more worried about is whether or not the troops in the frontline will be able to defend against the Earth Dragons’ charge. The imperial palace guards may be strong, but they’re still elves after all, and elves have lean bodies compared to humans. I really worry if they’ll be able to withstand the charge of the dragons.

The last hole I asked to be dug was done, everybody else had finished with their preparations, and the scouts had returned one-by-one. Alright, all that’s left is Lucia. I wasn’t with Lucia, and walkie-talkies didn’t exist yet, so I had no idea what sort of situation Lucia was in. Did she find the enemies? Was she hurt? Was she scared? I didn’t know anything.

Lucia always had an “I don’t care” look on her regardless of what she was doing. She would probably sacrifice herself without any complaints if I asked her to. Was this her devotion to love or loyalty? Or was her courage a combination of the two?

Spears rose up one-by-one and a simple Macedonian Phalanx formation was formed. The imperial palace guards held their positions vigilantly as they waited for the Earth Dragons to come. Their eyes showed no hints of fear. Perhaps it was due to their battle experiences that allowed them to be so confident. They were silent and still as a rock, as though waiting for the moment the silence would break.

The relaxing smell of green vegetation in the air was replaced with the scent of metal, oil, and the silent tension of the men. We all watched the direction the enemy was going to come from silently. The entire canyon was silent... All that remained was a tense atmosphere that would make anyone nervous. I looked at my men and lifted my right hand up.

“Everyone, get ready. Don’t panic when the Earth Dragons appear. Wait for them to enter our range before firing!”

“Understood!”

It was time... Time to finally open the curtain on our battle with these rampant creatures.

Chapter 15

NEWS: You guys took the site down within 4 hours of a release yesterday lol. I hope it stays up a bit longer today, otherwise I may try uploading at a different time to see what happens, because that's insanity to me. Don't forget to follow me on Facebook or else you'll be wondering what happened when you can't access your chapter.

When I looked at Ji Si and took out a tiny bottle and poured the liquid onto the tip of everybody's spear, they all asked: "What's that?"

Ji Si paused for a moment and replied: "It's a demonic bottle. It contains spring water her highness gifted. She added a command so that the spring water contained in it'll combust. Once it makes contact with the enemy, they'll be reduced to ashes. Your highness, you're aware that these demonic bottles were filled with this not long after the last war, right? I think it's better to refer to the spring water in it as her highness's "command", rather than as water."

"What else can it do besides set fire to things?"

This thing is awesome! It's like an enchantment. It could turn a normal spear into a fire-spear. So, does it just set fire to the Earth Dragons once it pierces them?

"There is also 'Freeze', 'Venomous Poison' and 'Explosion', all of which were made from her highness's holy spring. I thought you knew about it, your highness."

Ji Si looked at me with doubt and said: "Your highness, you should ask her highness to share some of this knowledge with you. Not only is her highness a wise a ruler, she is also a brilliant strategist, a skill she proved ten years ago. And today, it is your turn to prove yourself to us."

He took out the imperial guard unit's flag on the side and passed it to me with

a face filled with frivolous pride. I took the flag and said to those in the formation: "Please give me a spot in the formation."

"No, no, no. Your highness, a king does not need to enter battle himself. You just need to standby at the camp. The troops will not get confused. You need not throw yourself into the formation. You need only to stand behind them. As long as the flag remains standing, our troops will fight to the death."

Ji Si grabbed me by the hand and dragged me to the back of the formation. He looked at me with the flag, and softly said: "Ten years ago when our defence line crumbled, her highness took the flag in hand, and charged the enemy's vanguard while roaring loudly. When that happened, it was like a goddess had descended and all the troops who were on the verge of the defeat re-assembled, the troops who were fleeing regretted their decision, and all the elves regrouped under her highness's flag. The life of every elf was entrusted to the flag in her highness's grasp that day. After that, that flag which stood irrevocably became the source of confidence for our men. Every man concluded that as long as the flag stood, no one would retreat. Come. Come, your highness. Her highness's blood runs through your veins and you are her son. It is now your turn to take the flag. Please deliver your speech. It does not need to be a heroic speech. You just need to let our men know that you have our backs!"

The flag blew in the wind as it whispered through the canyon. The tense air was shattered by the roar. The floor beneath us shook like an Earthquake hit and the sound of metal clanged in rhythm with our heart beats. Dirt rose at the entrance of the valley as our prey entered our ambush.

Mom led the charge last time? Where did mom summon all that courage to take the flag and charge the enemy lines when she was just a single woman facing off against humanity with troops who'd lost all morale already? Was it her love for her country or was it out of responsibility as the queen? All I've heard about kings and emperors who came before me was how tyrannical they were. But I've now seen how brave a wise and capable ruler can be.

"Attention! Children of the World Tree, Men of the royalty of elves!"

I didn't know what to say, but I could feel my blood-flow speeding up and my

heart beat racing with excitement. My hand holding the flag trembled, my breath sped up as I stared at the dirt closing in. Was I craving battle? Was this because of my background as a solider or was it because of the owner of this body? I didn't know. I'm not very familiar with the culture of elves. What came out of my mouth was a pledge made up of a combination of stuff I'd read during my time here.

“.....”

The spears the imperial palace guards held were steady. There wasn't a hint of doubt from them, but I could tell that all their attention was focused on me. I watched the dirt dancing in the air, felt the trembles of the Earth and looked at my men as the blood in my body began to boil. I tightened my grip on the flag. This strong motivational feeling made me sick but at the same time, uncontrollably excited.

“Listen in. Behind you is the land of the elves, your wife, your parents and children. Behind you are the gazes of all elves, and above you are god's watchful eyes! Remember the oath you pledged, remember the honour flowing through your body, remember your responsibilities and remember your training. I shouldn't have to say much to warriors like you. All of you are the unbreakable walls of our city!”

“YES SIR!”

“Look at the dust swirling up over there. Look at those beasts running rampant! Nothing is allowed to run rampant on our land! We inherited this land from our ancestors, and we mustn't let it get damaged! Don't let those watching your backs down! Don't let me down! I'm right behind you holding our flag high! As long as this flag stands, we will not fall! May the gods bless us! May glory and victory be ours!!”

“YES SIR!”

The first row of men crouched down and pointed their spears towards the wave of dust coming toward us. In front of the dust was a small silhouette jumping off the rock faces.

I loudly shouted: “Lucia!”

Her silhouette got closer and closer as well as the Earth Dragons. I've seen drawings of what Earth Dragons look like in the books I read. This was my first time seeing a Triceratops like animal. The horn on their head resembled the battering rams used in city sieges. They were big as rhinoceroses, yet faster than a horse. Their steps shook the Earth like Earthquakes, making the two sides of the mountain appear like they were going to collapse. We were standing on land and yet it felt like we were at sea rocking and swaying.

Dirt filled the air and covered the sky like a sandstorm, and they were the demons lurking within. They were huge and strong. People always fear things larger than them, that's completely normal. Our long spears look like mere toys to them. I didn't know what I could place my faith in.

No, I actually do have something I can place my faith in.

I can place my faith in that small silhouette flashing in the distance.

"Prepare your magic!"

"Stop!"

I stretched my arm out to stop Ji Si standing by my side. I looked at the small silhouette and said: "Lucia will get hurt! Don't unleash your attacks yet! Wait!"

"It'll be too late by then!"

"Once the Earth Dragons enter, it doesn't matter when we block off the exit! I can't put my Lucia in anymore danger than she's already in!"

I kept a close watch on her small silhouette as it got bigger and bigger. Lucia finally came into sight. Her leather armour was covered in mud and leaves, her ponytail came undone and her blonde hair was flailing in the air.

I shouted in her direction: "Lucia!!"

"My prince!!"

Lucia's voice was trembling and was carried to me by the wind. I saw her reach her hand out to me as well as the Earth Dragons close behind. I don't know what she went through, but I was certain this was worthy of becoming a legend of courage, intelligence and unwavering determination. Seeing her reach out for me, I stretched my left hand out as my body continued trembling.

“Seal the exit!!”

Two giant fireballs headed for both sides of the cliff and created a huge hole when they exploded. The rocks in the valley collapsed and sealed off the Earth Dragons’ exit.

“There’s no retreat route for us! Everybody is watching us! We are the city walls!!”

I watched on as the Earth Dragons charged us. Not a single man under me was showing a hint of fear. The Earth Dragons were facing the virtually invincible vanguard. It felt like all my blood rushed to my head as I faced these creatures which had killed me once before. Everything in view turned dark while I felt so sick I wanted to puke. My entire body was trembling. I felt cold but couldn’t stop sweating. My limbs went numb but I just wanted to slaughter them.

Is this war? Is this war?

I looked at those crazy beasts run rampant, and then I looked at my men, and finally my fiancé. I lifted the flag in my hand up high. The sunlight shined on our flag as it fluttered in the wind. This is the flag that holds the blood, glory and miracles achieved by the military. And this time, it’s my turn!

“For our kingdom, our people, and our queen!”

I watched as the Earth Dragons and my men roared!

“For our queen!!”

The roars of the elves could still be heard amidst all the quaking and noise. Lucia rushed to the front of the formation. She came down from above and I opened my arms to catch her tightly in my embrace as she descended. She had the scent of the perfume on her as well as the smell of rotten leaves. We tightly hugged each other. She breathed lightly on my shoulder as I rubbed her back. I was so happy and moved I couldn’t speak. Lucia was fine, she wasn’t hurt, and now she was back in my embrace. Tears started to form in my eyes as I felt the warmth and breath of my beloved.

Lucia softly said while on my shoulder: “Your highness! Please give the orders!”

I let go of Lucia, clasped her face in my hands one last time, and lightly wiped the dirt marks on her face. She smiled and fell to the ground from exhaustion, clinging to my leg. I drew blade, the blade of a commander, looked in the direction of the ballistae, and shouted: “Ballistae unit, ready up!!”

I could hear the sound of the chains and wood from the ballistae moving. The Earth Dragons fully appeared in our sights. Their presence exceeded what I’d imagined. There weren’t twenty, but close to fifty of them I think. Perhaps Lucia lured the ones living in the Black Forest as well, but it was fine. Since they’ve come for us, I won’t let Lucia’s efforts be for naught.

They were getting closer!

And...

“Fire!”

The ballistae roared as the bows clanked and fired the arrows at the Earth Dragons. The concentrated rain of arrows flew in the direction of the Earth Dragons rushing us. The arrows pierced the Earth Dragons in the front line. Blood, organs and flesh sprayed into the air as if it were raining blood. The air was quickly filled with the scent of blood making it difficult to breathe.

The arrows with the ‘explode’ command exploded as they hit their targets, blowing the dragons into pieces.

The Earth Dragons were blown to smithereens one-by-one. However, the ones in the rear didn’t seem to slow down. They stepped on the exploded flesh and organs like a water-stream flowing over rocks as they continued to rush us. The ballistae came in really handy, and the explosive arrows really did the job. The rain of blood didn’t stop from the moment we fired the ballistae. We were covered in their blood before we even engaged them.

I wiped my face and brushed off god-knows what parts of the Earth Dragons stuck to my face. I closely monitored the Earth Dragons’ silhouettes approaching us. The ballistae were firing away like no tomorrow, but due to us having so few, they were only able to slow down their movements. Even if one exploded, the ones in the rear wouldn’t care and continued their charge.

They’re too close! The ballistae can’t work their magic at this range.

I loudly roared: "Ballistae unit, retreat! Everyone to the rear! Good job! Now men, there's nothing left to say. For our queen!!"

"For our queen!!"

The elves operating the ballistae jumped down one-by-one and rushed over to join our formation. The centre of the formation made way to allow others through and then they regrouped tightly together. The Earth Dragons had just about crushed all the ballistae. The Earth Dragons covered in blood were disgusting. It's like they were completely covered in blood and bits of flesh. The men closely watched them rush at us while howling.

Whether we make it through or not will depend on whether we can stand our ground or not!

"Hold your positions! Don't let them break the formation no matter what!"

The first row of men kept their spears trained on the beasts as they kept an expressionless face. They were neither scared nor glad, just like martyrs. The large beasts came charging as they roared. The men in the front line had the heaviest tanking job. If they lose their footing, then everything we've done up till now will be for naught.

They're close now! I could see their scales flashing. The men in the frontline lowered their heads and pointed their spearheads directly at the incoming enemy.

Get ready...

Intercept!!

A strong gust of wind blew in front of our men and the dragons, taking away all the dust smothered with blood, all the stones, and even put out all the flames. The wind blew fiercely towards the hordes of Earth Dragons. The Earth Dragons went into a state of shock and panic like a horse does when frightened. The dragons in the rear continued to race forward and knocked all the dragons at the front away, completely destroying any resemblance of a formation they had. The dragons in the front rows helplessly fell into the spears of our men. The spears pierced them neatly as they fell to the ground miserably.

I lowered my head and looked at Lucia. Lucia clenched her teeth tight and the

veins on her forehead looked like they were going to pop. She focused on the spot where the gust of wind was rising, and combined her fire magic with Ji Si. Their combined fire-dragon hit the horde of Earth Dragons and completely wiped out their vanguard.

“Your highness, this is all... I can do...”

Her eyes met my mine. She then smiled slightly and hinted at me not to worry. Then she collapsed to the side.

“Somebody take care of Lucia! Men!!”

This is an opportunity!

I can't let Lucia's efforts go to waste!

I walked through the blood, raised the flag, looked at the horde of Earth Dragons who were now in complete disarray, and shouted: “Men! Onward! Charge!!!”

“YES SIR!!”

That's it, that's it!

Now it's our turn to charge them!!

“For our queen!!”

Chapter 16

NOTE: Make sure you follow me on Facebook for the latest updates for everything in general. I'm also going to start posting some exclusive content there and Patreon.

The landscape of the entire valley had shape-shifted.

When I took a breath, it felt like I was sculling blood. The bits of flesh and suffocating stench of burnt stuff made it almost impossible to breathe. The black smoke covered the sky. I don't think even the bright sun at noon could penetrate it. The floor was littered with bits of flesh, organs, and the huge corpses of the Earth Dragons. Spears were stuck in the corpse, and though they were dead, blood continued to spill forth from their corpses.

SFX: Pita, pita pita.

The ground had become a river of blood and we tread through the blood in our boots. The elves removed their helmets, ignoring the floor covered in blood and mud, and made their way around panting heavily as they used the corpses of the dragons as support to hold themselves up. After I gave the order to attack, their spears thrust into the dragons like venomous snakes. The much larger Earth Dragons wailed as they were completely slaughtered by the much smaller elves.

The imperial palace guards were very accurate with their spear thrusts. Each thrust was aimed at either their neck or heart. Each time their spears coated with her highness's blessing entered and exited their bodies a strong burning stench could be smelt. The wails of the Earth Dragons further lowered their morale. They couldn't escape because we sealed the exit. The men slaughtered every single one of them in the canyon.

I didn't retreat. I continued to hold the flag tightly and followed the men in

front. I watched as each and every dragon's head fell to the floor. I crossed the dragons still moaning around on the floor, and watched the men pull out their blades after their spears snapped. I listened to their steady steps and courageous roars.

"Your highness..."

The men who were still able to stand made their way to me as they continued to pant heavily. They pointed up ahead and said: "The Earth Dragon King is up ahead. He's not dead yet. Would you like to see him, your highness?"

I gave them a nod, and said: "Sure."

I couldn't believe the Earth Dragon King was just up ahead. Why would we have been lured out here by the perfume? Isn't he the king? Could it be that the king is just another common Earth Dragon until he's instated as the king? His head will make the perfect trophy to celebrate our victory. Since he's still alive, it must mean that he didn't explode to smithereens, so we can take a complete corpse home.

I stepped over a separated tail and walked through the blood to get to the body the size of a small mountain. This is the Earth Dragon king? He certainly looks slightly larger than normal Earth Dragons. His horn is a bit longer and his frills look more sophisticated like a crown. His body had seven or eight spears stuck in it, and there were many stab wounds on his head inflicted by blades.

His yellow pupils moved around and wailed quietly when I came into sight as though he was begging for mercy. I didn't crouch down and stayed standing. I watched his slow eye movements begging me. His breaths were shallow and could only wail faintly.

The men stood around me with their weapons in hand and asked: "What's wrong, your highness?"

I walked to the front of it, stepped one foot onto its head, stepped onto its eye, looked down and contemptuously said: "You're a king too? That's great. Kings always have things to say to each other. Right now, you're just a prisoner. Can you still run rampant? Can you still kill people just because you feel like it? Perhaps we both want to bring peace to our kind. But your comrades no longer need it, so I'll be merciful with you."

He removed my foot as he looked at me with fear. Panicked, he tried to appeal to me. I lifted the flag in my hand up high and pointed the sharp end that was intended to be stuck into the ground towards him. I was going to kill their fallen king. He wasn't an elf or a human, but he was still a king.

SFX: Stab!!

I violently stabbed the spear into his eye. After letting out one final cry, he completely collapsed and stopped wriggling. The men surrounding him looked at his corpse with the flag stuck in his eye. I turned around and said: "Messenger, head back and get men to come and take this corpse back. Do your best to collect as many corpses as you can. If they were blown up, grab their tails, organs and the sort. I can't let the people down this time."

"Understood!"

I returned to the carriage. Lucia's gaze looked to the outside of the canopy. I smiled and sat down with my back towards Lucia who was lying down. I let out a heavy sigh, and said: "That was tough. Fighting sure is tiring." Lucia wasn't injured, she was just fatigued.

How could those clumsy Earth Dragons possibly hurt Lucia.

Lucia laughed from behind and said: "Yes, but you did exceptionally well, your highness. All the credit belongs to you this time. You were behind the ballistae, you located them and strategized. You did everything very well, second-to-none. You were just like her highness. You held the flag steady and never took one step back. I admire your courage, your highness."

I laughed, turned around and gently caressed Lucia's face as I said: "As do I. I witnessed your skills and courage. You really are amazing. I worried for nothing."

"That's not true."

Lucia cut me off, slowly stretched her hands out and interlocked her fingers with mine. She looked at me with a smile and said: "I was able to carry out the job safely because you looked after me. Your care and concern for me is what motivates me to move forward, and... And I'm really happy that you care and worry about me."

“Is that so? In that case, I’ll continue to care about you.”

I held her hand and turned around. I smiled and looked at the top of her head. The black smoke still covered the sky. The horse carriage behind us squeaked. After that I felt something warm on my back. Lucia had let go of my hand and hugged me around my neck from behind, and gently rested her body on mine.

It’s alright for me to indulge in this warmth after that battle, right?

Being reincarnated is a strange feeling. In fact, I felt like an outcast here. But I just went and battled a horde of creatures I’d never seen before. These men had become like brothers to me. I don’t know if it’s due to the feelings of the previous owner of this body or not, but I can feel my own affection for mom and Lucia, both whom I’ve never met before.

Enjoying Lucia’s love is pure bliss.

I honestly don’t really miss my previous life. My parents left me with some sad memories but things I miss. But that can’t be helped. A family with members in the military meant that parents dying or children dying were inevitable things just waiting to happen. My parents are stronger than anyone, so they’d be fine.

I’m slowly getting used to my life here. I’m getting used to walking around in the palace every day, used to seeing different elves, their food, their entertainment as well as mom’s doting and Lucia’s sincere love. I don’t have any intentions of returning and I don’t have the thoughts connected to this body. I don’t want to leave. In fact I’m enjoying life here. There’s never a boring day here, even without computers or cell phones.

Mom and Lucia are here with me too.

In my previous life, I was always trying to seek the meaning of my life. I feel like I’ve found my meaning of life here. Lucia is completely different to human girls. She’s natural, innocent and strong. She’s so perfect she’s practically a goddess. I love Lucia. Actually, every guy who’s a true man would love Lucia.

“Hey, Lucia.”

“Hmm?”

I looked up at the sky above and asked with a laugh: “How will we ever be able to get married officially? We’ve been engaged for a long time now, haven’t we...?”

I actually don’t know how long we’ve been engaged, but who cares! I can ask about our marriage!

Lucia’s grip on my hand tightened as she started rubbing her body on my back and then said: “We can get married whenever, your highness, I don’t mind. Did you wanted to get married soon? But... But... After I get married, the buffs provided by the wind elves will wear off...”

There was a hint of hesitation in her voice as she said: “I’m the only-child in my family. Our family has always been charged with protecting the ruler of the elves. I’m only able to protect you and her highness in thanks to the support of wind elves. I can’t protect you if I don’t have their support. So I’ll be relegated to just being your wife, and our family’s legacy will end with me.”

I paused. I had no idea Lucia had to deal with that... No, I should’ve known, but I didn’t.

“You asked me before, your highness... I rejected you back then because I wanted to continue my family’s legacy. I wanted to continue it for at least ten years... But your highness, if you insist, I can...” Lucia hugged my neck and gently continued over my shoulder: “I want to get married to you too. I want to become your wife, have a few kids and to always stay by your side. If you wish to marry me, I am happy to wed you... It’s fine...”

I lightly held her hand. Lucia wasn’t forcing herself. She had a blissful smile on her face and her hand wasn’t shaking. She doesn’t lie. She wanted to get married to me, but she also wanted to uphold her family’s legacy. But this wasn’t a painful decision to make, as both were happy choices.

“Let’s hold off on it.”

I took her hand and said: “Inheriting what your family has passed down to you is important, Lucia. Uphold your family’s legacy as my fiancé for now. Once you’re tired we’ll get married. I’m happy with the way we are right now. As to when we get married... I’m not rushed.”

"Uhm. I won't have a change of heart, your highness. I fell in love with you at first sight. Your gentleness makes me very happy. I will never betray you..."

"Me too."

We held hands and sat on the edge of the horse carriage listening to the sound of the men behind us moving the corpses. The black smoke finally cleared, revealing the blue sky and bright sun. Lucia blew away the scent of blood with her wind magic, thereby bringing back the scent of the forest. Lucia didn't do anything and we just continued resting in each other's embrace. I felt her steady breath and looked around. It would be so blissful if we weren't here for war, but for a hunting trip.

The captain of the imperial palace guards walked over to us and said: "Your highness, everything is ready. The corpses have been loaded onto the carts and the men have packed up. Do we have to bring back the broken ballistae too?"

I shook my head and said: "They're all broken so just leave them. They've been completely crushed by the Earth Dragons so they're not worth fixing. Alright, let's head back. Since there are no more Earth Dragons in this forest, find a nice path to travel."

"Understood! Your highness, do we need to ask everyone to be ready to give us a homecoming welcome?"

The captain looked at me with a smile and said: "This is your first victory, a splendid victory. Your calmness and bravery are also commendable. You have won our respect with your display. Your highness, you can ask the citizens of our city to welcome you home. The gods are with you."

I shook my head with a smile and said: "No, there's no need. My last failure was my own fault. I was trying to make up for it like a blind sheep this time as well. It can't be considered a glorious victory so let's not bother the citizens and waste money. We can hold celebrations after my next true glorious victory."

"Understood, your highness. You should ride in front of our forces."

"Can't I stay in the carriage?"

I wasn't too keen on riding at the front where everybody could see me, because last time I was walking around scattering Earth Dragon scales. This time

I killed hordes of them, so people probably won't buy it...

Lucia pushed me from behind and said with a smile: "Go ahead, your highness. I'm fine. You need to walk at the forefront as the commander, because you're the one everyone is most proud of."

The captain nodded and said: "It is best that you walk at the forefront because it would be bad if someone else was seen leading. We would never be able to escape accusations of treason if someone accused us in that situation, so I would like to ask you to ride your horse at the forefront."

I sighed and stroked Lucia's head while feeling reluctant to leave her side, and finally got off the carriage. The captain gave me a bag full of dragon scales. But this time, they were different. There was blood dripping from the bag. I could feel the warmth of their flesh in my hands. Every single scale in this bag was peeled off the corpses of Earth Dragons. Only this time, I obtained them with my own hands.

"Men, let's head home! Remember, we are the victors!"

Yeah, we were victorious this time.

I could now proudly announce I triumphed.

Chapter 17

Translator Message: I've updated my Patreon page to give you more details on my projects and projects I'm hoping to start, so check it out.

I initially didn't like this child.

I saw him as form of punishment, a repulsive incarnation of humanity. They cheated my brother, and left my brother with nothing but pain and his own weakness. Humanity is always trying to avoid their own responsibilities. They're greedy beings who don't consider consequences. This child was the result of their love which shouldn't have been.

I initially didn't like this child.

This child grew up inside me. I swore I'd never share any love with this child and never accept him as my son. I said to myself that I wouldn't care if he accomplished lofty feats or died after being exiled. I said to myself that all I did was give birth to him, and would never accept him as my son.

That's how it was supposed to go.

But when a female servant held him in her arms and gently placed him in mine, I couldn't take my eyes off him after seeing him. I didn't want anything to do with the child, so why did I hold him in my arms? I'd never held a child before, so why did it feel so nice and natural? I didn't feel excited about giving birth to him so why was I teary and helplessly smiling?

How come I felt a sense of bliss I'd never felt before when I looked at his small white face and cradled his warm body in my arms as he slept? I never felt this happy when my brother cradled me. It was like we were the only two people in the world. It was as though the world was beautiful as long as I held him in my arms...

Is this... My child...?

I don't like this child! I said to myself I wouldn't act as a mother. I said to myself I'd only give him life, not a future... So why? Why? When he first called me "mom", my tears rolled down like a waterfall, and all I could think about was tightly embracing him. Embracing my own child, my only son.

He's my son...

He called me "mom"...

He's my son... My only son... I gave birth to him. I was by his side with every breath he took. He slept in my embrace every night. I cradled his face whenever he cried or smiled. He's my son, and I'm his mother. There's no mistake about that, because I'm a mother.

In those moments, I came to the realisation that I'd never be able to bring harm to this child, because from the moment I decided to give him life, I'd already become his mother. His only mother.

I've fantasised about all sorts of blissful things, such as spending time with my brother, or going to the spa I like after a hunt to enjoy a nice spa as I watched the people smile. But now I only saw one source of happiness, and that was watching this child grow up. Watching him grow, watching him stumble as he learnt to take his first steps, and at least up until the time he could ride a horse. I wanted to see his small chubby cheeks develop into a masculine face. I wanted to see him grow up, learn archery and swordsmanship. If I could see him slowly grow up, and become the prince revered by all, then that was the ultimate happiness for me.

My happiest moments were watching him come up to me in his well-kept clothes, bow to me, and smile as he called me: "Dear mom."

That was pure bliss. As long as my son was by my side, my life was filled with happiness. The world was devoid of evil as long as I had his smile. I didn't need this world, I just needed my son. I had the confidence to overcome any obstacle as long as he was by my side.

My son had grown. My son who I was proud of had grown. He was my son regardless of his past. I gave birth to him, and he grew up a proud, brave and confident man by my side. I'm the one that shaped him and the one that fulfilled the responsibilities of a mother!

Therefore, by rights, I should be allowed to keep him by my side, forever keep him within my sights and forever hold him in my embrace. I won't let anyone steal him from my embrace, especially that woman. She abandoned him, betrayed him and ran away with her face in her hands. There wasn't any news from her since the day he was born, and now she thinks that she can just rock up out of nowhere and demand that he be handed over because she was his biological mother after he'd grown up?

He's my son! He's mine, and I won't hand him over to anybody! Nobody!

I want to see him every day, I want to see him become more and more handsome, more and more manly, and welcome him when he smiles and says: "Mom, I'm home..."

That was the most beautiful scene I'd ever seen.

The rays of the sunset shined into the room and onto the bed with the scent of plants. The dust danced in the air. The silk curtain couldn't block the sunrays out. An elf sat on her bed. The sunrays looked like they shone through her white, almost transparent skin, thus illuminating a gentle and kind light. The sunrays shined on her spellbinding-beautiful face making her look as though she was an angel from heaven. Her blue eyes gazed at the sunset outside her window. Droplets of tears which were like bright diamonds dripped droplet, by droplet.

The sight of her was so beautiful I was swept off my feet. I stood at the door as though I had seen the world's most beautiful work of art. I shouldn't go in as art is not something you should approach. Art is something to be appreciated, it's not some sort of toy. I really wanted to speak to mom but I didn't want to ruin the mesmerizing scene.

Mom woke up.

Did she just wake up?

Mom's eyes slowly shifted towards me as she then looked at me with a smile and held her arms out.

I smiled and walked over with light steps. I walked up to her bed and hugged her. I felt mom's body warmth against mine. The fragrance of plants and her

unique scent calmed me down. She held me tightly and stroked my head.

I set my mind at rest and buried my head in her breasts. Then I smiled and said: "Mom, I'm back."

I didn't have any misgivings this time. She's my mom, she's forever my home. As long I'm in her embrace, all my grief, pain and fatigue disappear. She's my mom. My only mom...

"Welcome back."

Mom's embrace was warm, and her heartbeat put my mind at ease. She stroked my head while smiling. I closed my eyes and smiled as I indulged in her embrace. No celebration or praise from the outside world could compare to a simple "welcome back" from mom.

I'm finally home.

"Mom... I really miss you... I'm so glad you're alright... I've slayed the Earth Dragons, so you don't have to worry anymore!"

"Me too, son... My only son... I was worried about you too... Why did you disobey me again? You made me worry so much... Look at all this blood on you... I was so worried about you! I can't let this go on, I have to make sure you remember my words!"

"EEEEHHHH?! What are you doing, mom?! Don't take my belt off!! AAAHH!! What are these vines for?!"

I hadn't yet escaped the touching moment. My mind was still there, but before I could do anything, a huge vine wrapped around my waist and hung me up. Two more vines then locked my hands and I couldn't move at all. Mom undid my belt and pulled my pants down. I shrieked and struggled for dear life. Mom, you're pretty and all, but what are you trying to do?! A mother pulling her son's pants down can't possibly be normal! What are you trying to do?! What are you trying to do?!

I think we're following the wrong script here!

Shouldn't it be a touching reunion with mom hugging me?! Why did mom completely ignore the part about me slaying the Earth Dragons and focus on the

part about me leaving the palace instead?! This isn't right! Mom, you've missed the point!

Slap.

Slap.

Slap.

"Ahh... Ahh!! Don't! Don't do this! Don't... Don't! It hurts! It hurts!"

Yeah~ you guessed right. But please keep in mind that the "smack" sounds came from my body, and the bottom line was what came out of my mouth... Mom hung me up, pulled my pants down... And... And punished me in a way worse than death... I agree that this is a normal way of punishing a disobedient child, but I'm a grown man! Couldn't she have chosen another method?!

Mom sat on her bed and used her vines to lay me on her thighs. She raised her slender arms up high and then smacked me hard... My butt took heavy damage... Mom wasn't showing any leniency this time. It really, really, really hurt!

"I told you not to leave. Why don't you listen to me?! Why did you go after those Earth Dragons? Look at you covered in blood! You made me worry so much! I need to give you a spanking to teach you a lesson!"

"That hurts!! Mom!! Aaahh... Don't! Stop... I... I'm a grown man... Ahh!"

"No matter how grown up you are, you're still my son! You say you've grown up, and yet you make me worry like this! You made a mistake once already and you still disobeyed me!" Mom didn't go easy on me. She used her perfectly beautiful hands to spank me. I tried to break free, but couldn't. I couldn't do anything other than cry in pain...

And suffer incomparable humiliation!

At least it was mom spanking me. I could accept that. She raised me so I was a bit more accepting and didn't feel so ashamed of getting spanked...

"Your highness! Your highness! I heard you've recovered!"

Lucia excitedly pushed the door open while the imperial palace guards were right at the door. When Lucia saw what was happening inside, her smile froze

and she grabbed the door handle. Mom looked at the doorway, raised her hand, and brought it down onto my butt again. I felt all the air in the atmosphere disappear...

Kill me now...

I silently dropped my head. I have no regrets in this life. Mom, you really were a good mom. I'm a little unhappy that you always treated me as a kid, but thank you for looking after me. I'll let Lucia take care of you from now on. I don't know how to face people anymore. Just this afternoon, I was their badass leader, and now I'm butt-naked as you spank me...

This is just like when a kid steals from tomatoes from someone, gets caught by his own mom and spanked on the spot...

"Your highness! It was my mistake! I shouldn't have taken his highness out on my own accord!"

Lucia knelt down, bowed her head down and claimed it was her fault. All the guards behind her followed fit, and the clanging of metal nearly deafened me. I have my suspicions that they cracked the floor. Clearly, they've misunderstood the situation! They're interpreting it as: "If her highness doesn't spare even her son, then we're dead meat!"

What happened to our brotherhood?! Could you guys at stop worrying about yourself and help me out here?! At least stop her from spanking me in front of all of you!

Mom looked at them and then looked down at me, and asked in a surprised tone: "Did you take the imperial palace guards with you?"

I looked at mom with eyes filled with despair and said with a grin: "Yes... I took half of them, and we slayed the Earth Dragons... It's true! It's true!"

Lucia lowered her head and reported: "That is correct your highness. His highness commanded the men at the canyon and we killed all the Earth Dragons. At the moment, we are waiting to deal with their corpses. His highness held the flag and never took a single step back. He was as brave and wise as you. We all greatly respect him!"

After she finished reporting, she looked up to look at me and winked cheekily.

Mom sat up tall and proud. There was so much pride on her chest it caused the world to tremor. Mom proudly stroked my head and said: "Of course, he's my son. My biological son. The prince of elves. The next king of the elf race. There's no way he'd retreat. You've all now witnessed what I said. I told you he was courageous, kind, just and lenient. So stop treating him like a child..."

I think you're the one who's always treating me like a child! You're the one spanking me when I'm a grown man!!

"You did well, and got rid of the Earth Dragons. I'm still a little angry, but I shouldn't welcome a hero home by spanking him... Get up son..."

Mom waved her hand and the vines that came out of god-knows-where disappeared to who-knows-where. I faced my back to them and pulled my pants up... Could you please not stand there looking at me while I get dressed?

After I got dressed, mom clapped her hands and said with a smile: "Alright, let's go. Let me see the Earth Dragons my son killed!"

"Right away!"

Chapter 18

Translator Comments: I'll be posting some awesome stuff on Facebook and Patreon tomorrow so make sure you're following me there. If you haven't already, what the heck are you doing?

"Umm... Mom..."

Satisfied, mom pressed her hands together, took two steps back while looking at the huge Earth Dragon head on the wall and ask me: "What is it?"

Mom was checking to see if the head was pinned up straight... For your information, I'm referring to the head of the Earth Dragon King, which mom sliced off and hung in the large hall. This was an exhibit for elf rulers to display hunts they were proud of. There were all sorts of strange creates. Mom decided to hang mine right in the middle.

Earth Dragons aren't rare creatures and certainly not violent ones. They were just herbivorous creatures. The creatures displayed in this room were dangerous creatures. I saw the head of a flying dragon. And yes, that head has been tossed aside. Mom took it down to hang this Earth Dragon's head... "Mom, an Earth Dragon's head is nothing special. It pales in comparison to these other creatures, so I think it's better that we don't hang it up..."

I covered my face because I was feeling slightly embarrassed. All the other creatures were Fire Dragons, Nine-headed Snakes or ridiculously large eagles. Mine was an Earth Dragon head you could find anywhere. You may think that this will earn me the admiration of future generations, but in reality, they'll just see how pathetic I was as a ruler. I mean, I killed a measly Earth Dragon, not a Fire Dragon. Man, people are going to shit themselves laughing.

"Why? I'm so proud of this. My son slayed an entire horde of Earth Dragons on his first campaign. This is a great achievement my eyes. Moreover, you used

both your wits and bravery to take them down. You can't measure bravery."

Mom turned around, leaned over and kissed my forehead. Her elegant fragrance enamoured me and took my breath away for an instant.

"Go and share the spoils of war, son. I'm sure the imperial palace guards are eagerly waiting to be awarded for their bravery and contributions."

Mom stroked my head and said with a smile: "I'm really proud of your courage, my dear son. You are without a doubt my son and my brother's descendant. I'm very proud of your achievement today. A ruler must carry his people's burdens, live up to their trust and reciprocate their loyalty. You have done just that. You're a competent king, and my most beloved child."

I gave her a nod, then lifted my head up to look at her and said: "In that case, I have a request, mom."

Mom, still smiling released her hands and said: "Tell me, son. Mom will do whatever you want."

"I want three hours of free-time every day. I wish to roam freely in the elf capital during that time. I promise to not leave the capital and not do anything dangerous. I just want to be able to go out and play. The palace is too small for me now."

I looked at mom earnestly. After mom woke up, it was going to be impossible for me to go out. But I still had important things to do. I had to repay the perfumer, try out the food at the street stalls and enjoy the outside world with Lucia. The elf capital is huge, but it's unfortunate that I haven't even walked two streets yet.

Mom paused to think for a bit before saying: "One hour. One hour at most. The most I can give you is one hour. It's not that I don't want to give you freedom. It's just that danger still exists even in the capital. I can't prioritise your freedom over your safety. From now on, you can go out for an hour after lunch, but you mustn't exceed that time limit."

Fine, one hour it is then... The look on mom's face told me that I wouldn't be getting anymore. One hour is better than nothing. At least it's enough time to grab a bite and go for a stroll.

I nodded and bowed to express I understood, and then turned around and left the large hall. After I left I went to the back of the palace. It was noisy when I get there as the artisans were busy with the corpses. The body of Earth Dragons are essentially a body of gems. Their flesh could be eaten, their scales couldn't be pierced by blades, their fat could be refined, and their bones could be used to concoct expensive medicinal ingredients or perfumes. Even their horns could be used to purify water after being grinded into a fine powder. Since we had a hugely successful hunt, the imperial palace guards set up a barbecue by the Earth Dragons' corpses, and you guessed it... They barbequed their flesh and enjoyed their meal on the spot.

When I brought mom here before, she wanted to off the Earth Dragons' head... I was just joking with her and told her I killed the Earth Dragon King myself. I said its huge head was my present to her. I never imagined she'd gleefully slice its head off and hang it up as a prize...

"His highness is here!"

Those around the barbecue threw what was in their hands down when they saw me and greeted me on one knee. I waved my hand with a smile and said: "You were all heroic out there today. It's your rest-time now, so don't bother with formalities. Just do what you must. I came to play around as well."

"Thank you, your highness!"

The men let out loud cheers. Immediately after, the sounds of metal and wine cups clanging rang through the air again. I walked into the middle of the crowd. The scent of grilled meat was quite nice. The men sat in small groups. I felt it wasn't a good idea to force my way into any group, so I just walked around in the nearby vicinity.

"Ah, your highness."

As soon as I turned my head around, a metal fork made its way into my mouth. A piping hot piece of meat filled my mouth. All my senses were overcome with the strong scent of elves' ingredients. Lucia pulled her fork back as I tried to breathe while chewing the piece of Earth Dragon meat. How should I put it... It tasted like beef in my mouth. I don't know what sorts of spices elves use, but it was comparable to grilled meat humans make and eat.

It honestly tasted quite good. I proceeded to swallow it. Lucia passed me a cup of grape wine and said: "The grape wine in the palace tastes great, but the beer outside the palace is great too. Would you like a cup, your highness?"

I nodded and took the cup with a smile. The wine in the cup had a very strong scent and felt mellow in my throat. The fragrant scent of grapes was evidently present. Instead of calling it wine, it'd be more fitting to call it liquor. I couldn't help myself and had a few gulps before handing back to Lucia the empty cup.

Lucia looked at me with resentment as she took the cup and angrily said: "This is my wine!"

"So what...?"

"This is my cup too!"

Lucia turned around and muttered: "You haven't even kissed me..."

"Ah... Sorry..."

I felt bad and rubbed my head. Then I dragged Lucia to the wine barrel, took a wooden cup, and after two people poured the wine, Lucia looked at me while lifting up her cup and muttered: "Hmph... Well... I wish you and her highness good health."

"Uhm, both her highness and you."

We gently bumped our cups and drank our cups of grape wine.

Lucia smiled with hot flushes on her face as she leaned against the wine barrel. I wonder how much she's had to drink, but it's clear that she won't be able to carry out her work tonight. No matter, it's not like she's the only member in the Shadow Squad. We leant our shoulders and heads on each other as we gazed at the rare sight of the moon and stars, and we both let out a long sigh.

I went through a huge ordeal after coming here not too long ago. I was fine right after it ended, but now that I'm free, I feel so tired and relaxed. I shouldn't have any more problems to deal with in life from now, will I? I'll probably just spend time accompanying Lucia and mom, and enjoy star-gazing and moon viewing.

That sort of life isn't so bad.

The entirety of the moon was almost visible with just the final little bit still missing. I believe it'll be full soon. How long have I lived here? I don't think it's even been a month.

Lucia looked at the sky and softly said: "The moon is nearly full, your highness."

I closed my eyes and said with a smile: "Yeah, nearly. What's next? Just accompanying you, I guess? Mom has granted me an hour to go out, so we can go for strolls outside in that hour in the future. We can buy some food, play and whatnot..."

Life from here on out won't be some sort of grand epic. Mom experienced a war, but I don't think I will. But isn't this good? I mean it was so taxing just hunting Earth Dragons, it can't be good for your health.

Lucia threw away her cup of wine with one hand, tightly grabbed my arm as she started crying and loudly yelled: "What?! Didn't you choose to go to humanity?!"

I was so shocked I nearly tossed my own cup of wine away. I stared at Lucia who was extremely worked-up. Her emerald eyes were extra shiny under the moonlight. Do the eyes of elves shine and emit light when they get worked-up?!

"No, no, calm down first! Calm down!"

Lucia virtually glued her body to mine. Her boobs were firmly pressed against my arm and she was wearing a low-cut formal dress, so I couldn't help but look... Lucia however, didn't care about any of that. Her eyes were fixated on me. Her eyes were pleading me and showed that she was emotionally worked-up. She clinched my clothes tightly like she was trying to stab through my clothes and into my skin.

"Your highness, have you made up your mind?! So you're going to stay forever?! W-wouldn't that instigate a war?! If you're willing to stay with us, I'm willing to do anything. Her highness would be really happy too, I know it!"

"Hang on, calm down first... Why are you so worked up over me staying with you? Am I supposed to go to humanity's place for something?"

I looked at Lucia completely befuddled. Her expression changed from worked-up to lifeless and she continued to stare me in the face. After a while, she wiped her tears, took my cup away and said: “Your highness, you’ve had too much to drink. Have you forgotten? You’re meant to go to humanity’s place next month. Next month, you will be humanity’s prince, and won’t be back here until the following month. This was the agreement made at the war ten years ago. You have to go between two countries to fulfill your duty as a son.”

The war over their son?!

“You’re going there to study only in name. In truth, you’re going there to fulfill your role as a son. Your highness, your identity is very special. We weren’t completely victorious in that war, otherwise we’d never have you go to humanity.” Lucia sighed as she looked and softly continued: “An agreement on a single piece of paper brought peace for the two races. But is this a good thing...? No, this question is for you. Your highness, will you be tired?”

I don’t know...

I’ve never experienced it...

Usually people would go to other countries to become consort princes, or queens, and here I am running between two countries to play “son”. What the hell is this?! I’m a son regardless of which side I’m on! How did they come up with this agreement in that war?! So what we’re saying is that I have to go to humanity’s place next month and play son there too now?! What sort of mess is this?! I still haven’t sorted out last generation’s hatred, vengeances and whatnot, and now there’s this bizarre business?!

I laughed bitterly. This wasn’t something I could enquire about since it’s supposed to have been happening with me for the past ten years. They’ll suspect me if I ask, but if me running back-and-forth between the two countries can bring about peace for ten years, then it’s totally worth it. Perhaps we can maintain the peace if I continue doing so.

Since I’m the prince of humanity, I presume I won’t be treated badly. It should be fine. This agreement is extremely weird and ridiculous, but it looks like the war ten years ago really was just a fight over their son...

The fury of my mothers are scary...

I laughed bitterly and said: "There's nothing bad about that right? I don't suffer anything. I just have to make the trip between two countries. If this can prevent the people from suffering the repercussions of war, then I feel it's worth it."

Lucia looked up at me with pity and said: "But, your highness, won't you be lonely? Humanity is different to us in every aspect, and I'm here... Your highness, won't you be lonely?"

I couldn't bear to tell her I was human... It's actually more correct to say that I'm not used to the way we do things here... I'd probably be like a fish in water over there, after all, elves are very xenophobic, but humans should be more tolerant, right?

I scratched my head and answered with a smile: "I'll be lonely for sure, but it's precisely because I'll be lonely that I'll always be looking forward to coming back to see you, Lucia. It's because I'll be lonely that I treasure every minute spent with you and like you even more, Lucia. It's because I have you in my heart that loneliness doesn't overcome me."

"Your highness!!"

I knew it.

If I were able to meet a few more girls here, I'd never be single, I kid you not.

I tightly embraced Lucia who was clinging to me and staggered two steps back which made us fall into the corpse of an Earth Dragon. I landed on its nose, and all this gooey stuff came out wetting my pants.

"Ah... Sorry, your highness!"

I swiped a bit of the goo, held it up to my nose, took a whiff and said: "It's alright, but Lucia, do you feel like we've smelt the scent of this goo somewhere before?"

Lucia wore an expression of disgust.

Hey, hey, hey!! I'm pondering over a serious matter here!!

Chapter 19

Castell stood before me and said with a laid-back smile on his face: "Your majesty, what did you call me for? If you were intending to invite me to your victory celebration banquet, please allow me to pass on it. I cannot attend such an event as the food and drinks at banquets are not suitable for one with a heart condition like myself. I have had some warm milk and was preparing to turn in, but your guards called me out when I was having my second smoke."

I called for him out of the blue, but he's still dressed very adequately nonetheless. He said he was about to turn in, when to the contrary, he looks completely awake and full of energy. Of course, I wouldn't have woken him up in the middle of the night for nothing. If I wanted to thank him for his suggestion, I would've rewarded him tomorrow.

I pointed to the Earth Dragon head on my table and said: "Greetings, Mr Castell. I wouldn't have disturbed your rest if I didn't have an important matter to discuss with you, however, as a human, I suspect you would know about the small problem I've just discovered."

I had an Earth Dragon head placed on the table. There were blood marks on it from where the head was cut off. The veins and tissue were visible. Castell frowned as though he didn't want to approach the stinky and blood-tainted head. To be honest, I don't want to get close to it either, but I made an unbelievable discovery from when I fell into the corpse with Lucia.

Castell walked up to me, removed his glove, touched the head and asked with a smile: "What is it that you would like for me to see? If you would like to celebrate your victory in my presence, then I would be very honoured. Would you happen to have any fine wine, your majesty?"

"No, if I wanted to brag to you, I'd treat you to our finest wine. However, I'm quite unhappy at the moment. As a matter of fact, I'm actually in a very bad

mood. You should know that one should be at peace when trying to sleep, so I'd like for you to help me get rid of this oppressive feeling."

I tapped the head, looked at Castell, stopped smiling and said: "Please take a look inside the Earth Dragon's nose..."

"Your majesty, I am a human, so my eyesight is not as good as yours at night. Further, this green light is very dim to me. May I ask what it is you would like me to see?"

Castell didn't bow to me. He looked at me with his unchanging smile. I wore my anger like a coat, but he maintained his demeanour.

I pointed at the head and shouted: "Lucia!"

"Present."

Lucia appeared swiftly with her dagger on her. She neatly sliced the Earth Dragon's nose off to reveal the inside of its nose. A disgusting gooey liquid oozed out like human booger. Castell frowned at what he saw and asked: "May I ask if you are trying to make a fool out of me?"

"No. Look carefully Castell. I want you to see what it is. Look here. Look at this. What's this? This is a mark left behind from a nose piercing."

I used a wooden stick to swipe up some of the mucus, and then pointed to a small hole and said: "Don't tell me you can't see it. This is a nose piercing you'd use on cattle. This is used to tame and control them. Now that you've seen this, you know what I'm trying to get at, right? If you still don't get what I'm trying to say, then let me show you something."

I didn't give Castell a chance to speak. Instead, I swiped up a small amount of the mucus with a small wooden stick, looked at Castell and said: "I won't ask you anymore. This mucuous stuff was secreted from the Earth Dragon King's body. His body secreted this mucus, and then he rolled around in what's called "Bull-head Flowers". The combination of the juice from the flowers and the mucus here create a scent which brings the Earth Dragons together. I discovered large amounts of this mucus in their nose. It also just so happens to be that at the plain to the West of the capital is a large field of Bull-head Flowers. It's no wonder I felt it smelt similar. I came across the smell when I

passed through those plains on my way back. There I saw a massive amount of Bull-head Flowers.

I placed the stick down, kept my eyes still trained on Castell as I smacked the table hard and then snapped at him: “Who else but you humans could tame Earth Dragons and stuff this mucus into their noses?! You humans knew that to our city’s west was a large number of Bull-headed flowers, which was why you people deliberately forced the dragons there. What they ended up breathing in was that scent the Earth Dragon King was exuding, which attracted them to him. That’s why they all came here. It wasn’t because of their habitat being destroyed; it was your scheme! The last war ended ten years ago, and you people still want to instigate another war?!”

The room fell into a silence as Castell analysed everything in front of him. He then smiled again and said: “Please calm down, your majesty. As you know, I am just an envoy. Back home, I am just another insignificant official. If this was her majesty’s idea, then I would not even know of it. If I knew, I would not have given you any advice to mess up her majesty’s plans, right? And please do not worry. As long as you are alive, and as long as you uphold the agreement, war will not break out between our two countries.”

“How do you explain this then? Shall I personally report this to her majesty?”

I sat in front of him and crossed one leg over the other. I glared at him out of the corner of my eyes and coldly said: “I believe you’re aware that I’m a prince over there as well. I have the power to order an investigation into this matter. This is a serious matter that could ignite a war. This is a plot you humans set up to destroy our elf capital! If I hadn’t discovered this mucus by chance, I’d still be in the dark!”

“Please allow me to apologise, your majesty. I believe this was not her majesty’s idea because you are here. She would not want to start a war and certainly would not employ such a dangerous method with you here. If you could discover it by chance, would her highness not also notice it? Given these circumstances, I firmly believe it was not her majesty’s idea. You will soon be our prince. And when you do become our prince, you can investigate the matter as you will... But you should keep in mind that since somebody did this, they are trying to instigate a war... Surely you understand humanity.”

He paused for a moment before scanning his surroundings with a devilish smile, and said: "Humans never have moments where they interact peacefully with one another. When her majesty was trying to conquer the world, they were loyal as they shared the same goal. But now that the rulers have been determined, everybody has their own ends they wish to pursue. Generals still thirst for battle, merchants are thinking of ways to make more money and government officials are trying to curry favour with her majesty. Elves just want simple things. All they ask for is a free and simple life. However, humanity asks for too much, and their desires breed selfishness. In turn, their selfishness leads to them scheming. People with similar thoughts band together to find means to advance towards their goals. Some for money, some for power, and some for war."

"War?!"

I paused before continuing: "Why would someone thirst for war? Wasn't that war ten years ago enough for them?"

"It's precisely because of the tragic war ten years ago that they thirst for war."

Castell smiled and looked at me as he said: "You may not share the feeling, but you should know that the men who died in battle ten years ago, died for your sake. Your two mothers did not hesitate to send hundreds of thousands of men to battle to prove their love for you and their status as your mother. The war ten years ago was very tragic. Both humanity and elves suffered great losses. We lost three battalions, while your people nearly lost their capital. That was the first war our empire did not win. The war also orphaned many children and widowed many wives. People want to achieve another meteoric rise through war, other less fortunate people want revenge, while soldiers want to fight for their country. Those people want war."

"So what you're saying is somebody is pulling the strings behind the scenes of this incident?"

I was stunned, but couldn't retort since I'm human, and was human. I knew the truth behind Castell's words. That's human nature. Humans have always lusted for war regardless of the era. War is a dangerous game, but victory

promised many benefits.

Castell shook his head and said: "Your majesty, please do not get me in trouble. When you return and investigate this matter, please do not mention me. I serve her majesty out of admiration and have no ulterior motives. If her majesty wishes to wage war, then let there be war. But she does not wish for war, then I think you understand that will inevitably be those who wish to instigate war. I hope you understand this point and avoid getting angry too easily. Furthermore, if you try to investigate this matter upon returning, it will be fruitless. You may be the prince, but unlike here, you will not be given as much power and rights. Humanity does not dedicate their loyalty to you."

"You people want war? Fine, bring it. We've defeated you once, so naturally we have a chance of defeating you a second time. We have his highness, her highness and a highly-trained army. You people may scheme as you please. Do you think we elves don't feel anger?!"

Lucia was virtually ready to behead Castell.

She stabbed her dagger through the table and shouted: "You people invaded our land ten years ago. Why can't you humans just keep to yourselves? You humans invade and destroy everything in every direction. When will you all go extinct?! That would be a blessing for the world! If you people want war, then bring it on! I'll be sure to separate your queen's head from her body this time!"

"Please do not get angry, miss. As I mentioned, this is not her majesty's idea. She has never intended to continue the war because her son is with you. So I ask that you please do not curse her majesty. Moreover, last time, you were almost completely defeated. You barely managed to survive. You did not win. There was no victor last time. I believe his majesty will not act impulsively either, correct, your highness?"

Castell did not back down, and retorted everything Lucia said. For a scholar like himself to face off against Lucia who was fully equipped and not be fazed... He truly is talented.

I nodded as I sat silently in my chair deep in thought. Castell was right. The war ten years ago left the elves with a lot of implications. Both rulers want to avoid another war. But for some, every war was a chance for them to be

promoted and benefit. I've been too carefree here with the elves. Palaces shouldn't ever have such a harmonious atmosphere. Their political battles would be much more intense. The elves are simple and pure, and wholeheartedly serve their queen. But as a human, I understand the way humans think.

But I forgot.

Money makes the world turn.

Humans will start pursuing selfish goals once they're freed from the shackles of potential enemies in their surroundings. They're always pursuing money and power. I wonder what sorts of battles will take place with humanity. But one thing is for sure. It won't be as harmonious as it is here with the elves. The power balance is extremely important to humans. As someone who moves between the two countries, I definitely don't have any power. I'm just a prince, nothing more, and nothing less.

"I understand. It's getting late now, so please head back and rest."

I waved my hand and took a deep breath in. I was thinking I'd get to relax when I went to the humans, but reality has another story in store for me. If this is their plot to instigate a war then I won't be able to find out much. Even if I do find out something, I won't be able to do much given my lack of power.

I'm only able to fully practise my power as a prince here with the elves.

I'm not entirely sure why I feel so emotionally attached to the elves when I'm human. Perhaps it's because of mom and Lucia. I must protect the elf capital for their sakes. If the humans want war, then I must do my best to circumvent it. I'll investigate the matter when I get there. Even if I can't do much, a warning should be somewhat effective, right?

"Thank you for your understanding, your majesty. I too wish our two races can continue living in harmony. I believe we will with you present. I believe there will be no war as long as you are alive. But please be aware that her majesty cannot deal with enemies in the shadows. Please be careful of your surroundings regardless of where you are. Goodbye, your majesty. I shall see you in a few days' time."

Castell bowed eloquently and then left, leaving a now gloomier version of myself behind.

Chapter 20

Translator Comments: I love reading your comments guys, they're quirky (Chris P Duck's comment yesterday was hilarious) and they demonstrate that thinking takes place (I prefer your comments over memes because they're original), so keep commenting, I'm reading all of them!

It's said that freedom is relative...

Yes, I'm aware freedom is relative. There's no such thing as absolute freedom.

But come on, this isn't even remotely close to freedom!!

Lucia who was hugging my arm was focused on rummaging through the pile of fragrance sachets. Today is our first time going out. Lucia went out of her way to wear a long dress normal young girls would wear and for the first time, wasn't carrying any weapons. She gleefully held onto my hand as we strolled down the street looking at things. It was also the first time I had my own wallet... It was filled to the brim with coins, so it was particularly heavy. Heavy enough to make me want to toss it away. And even then, as we were leaving, mom asked me for the eighteenth time if I needed more money...

I was having a leisurely stroll with my girlfriend, my pockets were filled to the brim with money, I didn't have anything weighing on my mind, the streets weren't too packed, and the temperature was warm... It was the perfect scenario for a free and blissful one hour...

But instead, I wore a dry smile, the corner of my eye wouldn't stop twitching and the store owner in front of me didn't dare to lift his head. While the store owner and I wore bitter looks, Lucia was excitedly rummaging through the fragrance sachets.

It was meant to be a beautiful and blissful afternoon.

And it would've been had it not been for the tens of imperial palace guards

fully geared-up behind me...

“Okay! I want this one!”

Lucia happily picked up a fragrance sachet. The sachet had a really cute dolphin sewn onto it... Wait. There are dolphins in this world too? I nodded with bitter smile as I took out my wallet which was as heavy as a shot-put. I looked at the price and tentatively handed the owner five brass coins. The owner looked as if he were crying as he said in a shaky voice: “Thank you for your generosity, your highness. Could you please leave now? I need to put food on the table for the family...”

“I’m sorry... I’m really sorry!”

There’s nothing I could do. I was just as helpless! I didn’t ask for these guards to follow me! They were sent by her highness! I can’t do anything about it! I can’t tell them to get lost!

I turned my head around, looked at them with a bitter smile and said: Say... I came out here just for some fun. I won’t be leaving the city... The way you’re going about this is negatively impacting the people, and my time with Lucia... How about you all head back first? I’ll be back within the hour, I promise!”

“I am afraid, we cannot do that.”

The captain took his helmet off and with a complex expression said: “To be honest, we do not wish to disturb you and Miss Lucia either. But her highness ordered us to follow you both wherever you go... It is hard on us too. If we return now, we will lose our lives. Just... Just... Just pretend we are not here, and go about your own business. Just pretend we are not here...”

And how do you expect me to do that?! How do I pretend there aren’t thirty men carrying weapons. Fully clad in metal armour aren’t around?! You guys essentially block off half the street. Look at the businesses and stores around you. There’s not a single customer in sight!!

Lucia tugged on my sleeve and said: ” It’s fine, your highness. Just let them follow us. Her highness gave me the order to not drive the guards away no matter what... I don’t want...”

I could see the fear looming in Lucia’s eyes... Normally, mom is tolerant and

kind. But as soon as it's about me, she becomes a ruthless tyrant. This applies for even Lucia whom she usually treats like her own daughter... The very thought of when she was almost burnt to death filled her with fear.

I let out a heavy sigh. Is this freedom?! This isn't freedom!! This is essentially free time within a prison!! It's like surveillance on a criminal!! When did mom's love become a prison cell?! Why does she have to treat me like this when I only snuck out three times?!

I held Lucia's hand and said: "Let's go. I need to go and return a favour, and you can collect the perfume you ordered with her while we're there as well."

Lucia suddenly remembered something and said: "Oh no! I forgot about something!! Aaaahhh!! I still haven't got the stuff!! She won't be able to complete it before you leave now!!"

I smiled helplessly as I looked at her and asked: "What you're after is spit, blood and hair, correct?" Lucia looked at me disbelievingly as though she got struck by lightning and stuttered: "Uhh... Uhh... Your highness... You... You... You... I..."

I looked at her and asked with a chuckle: "Ah, it's fine. When you went to replenish your buff I bumped into that young lady and she brought it up with me so I gave her what she needed. Don't worry, it should be done by now. But I'm curious what did you ask for that required those things from me."

"AAAAAHH!!! It's nothing! Nothing! I don't believe in some love potion that makes men loyal to you, nyahahahaha... It's nothing, your highness... Don't worry, I wouldn't add it to your drink, ahahaha..."

The young girl looked at me with her blurry eyes. Can't you see that you're flustered? Are you aware that your honest lips just gave away your intention and plan?! Lucia's face turned red and she fidgeted like a malfunctioning robot. She doesn't know how to hide the lie because she doesn't know how to tell lies.

I laughed while scratching my head and said: "You're so silly. How would such a thing exist...? I won't have a change of heart, so don't worry. From the moment you escaped the horde of Earth Dragons and tightly embraced me, you became irreplaceable to me."

“Uhm... Your highness...”

Lucia calmed down and shyly buried herself in my arms. It would've been the perfect moment for a kiss if those thirty metal-clad guards weren't around... Lucia didn't seem to be bothered by their presence, but I was!!

I walked up to the large workshop that was like a greenhouse, took a deep breath in and said: “It's really squishy inside so I think it's better if you guys don't come in. Just wait for me here by the door. I'll come out once I'm done with my business.”

“That...”

“This is all there is to this place, where could I possibly run off to?! Don't you trust me?! When have I ever ran off on my own accord?!”

“Several times... Your highness, our lives are in your hands, so please do not do anything silly...”

I wearily waved my hand with a long sigh and said: “Alright, alright, I get it. Don't worry, I won't get you guys in trouble...”

“Then please hurry, we don't have much time left!”

“I know, I know. You guys are more long-winded than my mom.”

Okay, I take that back, you're not more long-winded than mom...

I dragged Lucia into the building with me. I could hear the footsteps of the lady in black. She removed her mask when she saw us, revealing her smile. She then bowed and said: “Welcome your highness and you too, young lady. I was very happy to see you return victorious, your highness. You've managed to live up to your role as the prince. So what brings you here to my small store today? Please do not to ask anything of me. Did my concoction perhaps not work, and you are therefore here to punish me?”

I gave her a helpless smile, a little bow and said: “I apologise. Those people aren't here for you. They're actually here to keep an eye on me. Don't worry about them. I just came here today to thank you for your concoction as it was a great help in my campaign.”

Her red lips shifted upwards. She then took a step back and said: “You are too

kind, your highness. As I mentioned previously, it is my honour to be of service to you. Business may improve now if I mention your name. You need not repay me with anything. It should be me repaying you.”

“No, no, no. What happened in the past was my mom... Her highness’s favour to you, not mine. You helped me, so naturally, I have to repay the favour. This is about principle, so please don’t stand on ceremony.”

She laughed helplessly, bowed and said: “I shall take up your offer then. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.”

“It’s nothing. Well, here you go.”

I handed her a small vial. She bent over and took it with two hands. When she stood back up, her eyes glimmered with delight and said: “Dragon Pulp?! You are giving me something so valuable?!”

I said with a chuckle: “Yes. Humanity may be able to breed Earth Dragons, but I doubt they could squeeze the pulp out because it’s a magical liquid. They can neither extract nor store it, so their pulp is always extremely valuable. I killed a horde of them, so you can have this small vial.”

I didn’t actually obtain much dragon pulp this time because most of them exploded into smithereens. We were only able to extract the pulp from those we killed with our spears. But since there were twenty odd heads worth, this wasn’t much for me. That said, I was told this small vial of dragon pulp alone was enough to buy half the stores on a streets that couldn’t even be bought with gold. That’s because dragon pulp is an Earth Dragon’s most valuable magical essence. If it were used to create make-up products, it’d grant its user eternal youth.

Mom took the bulk of it, Lucia took some, and I just took this small vial-worth to repay this young lady.

She excitedly nodded. Then she bowed deeply again and said: “Thank you so much, your highness. This reward is really valuable. If I can be of service to you in any way in the future, please do not hesitate to call on me. I will to my utmost best for you.”

“I’m glad to hear that. Who knows, maybe all of Lucia’s stuff will be made by

you in the future. You're rumoured to be the best perfumer in the capital."

Lucia giggled as she looked at me and said: "Yeah, that's right. If it wasn't for your highness, my order would be back-logged for a few months."

The young lady couldn't help but smile and said: "You are too kind with your words. I am just a normal perfumer. To be able to work with you is a great honour. Miss, if you need any perfumes in the future, just send me a message, and I will give it top priority. I will get it done in the shortest time possible."

"Thank you!"

Lucia joyfully grabbed the young lady's hands and thanked her with a smile. Lucia is just a normal girl after all. She has things she likes whether it is fragrance sachets or perfumes.

She looked at me with a smile, and then asked Lucia: "Oh, that's right. Miss, the order you placed with me is ready. Did you want me to send it over after or did you want to take it with you now?"

Lucia got embarrassed and blushed as she looked at me. I shrugged and then said: "Let's take it with us now... You've instructed her on how to use it, right?"

"Yes, but I can't guarantee the results... This was made from magic and your feelings. If he doesn't like you, then it won't be of much use. However, I honestly think you don't need this sort of stuff. His highness only has eyes for you."

"That... Uhh... Better safe than sorry..."

Lucia blissfully and shyly took a pink heart-shaped liquid. I noticed that it was clear inside... I need to be careful with what I drink in future... Especially with drinks Lucia pours me. I don't intend to cheat or anything, but I'm concerned about whether these questionable blends are poisonous...

Just as I was about to speak, an urgent bell sounded. This sound... Doesn't this bell ring when the whole city is under martial law?! What happened?! Did someone attempt to assassinate mom or something?! Why is the entire city under martial law?! I took Lucia's hand and bolted outside. Lucia stepped on my foot viciously and said: "What are you doing, your highness?!"

"The whole city is under martial law! Let's hurry and go help out! Maybe something serious happened!"

The streets were littered with anxious steps, as well as the shrieks of women and the cries of children.

Lucia anxiously shouted: "Nothing happened! It's your hour that's up!"

She then grabbed my wrist with a death-grip and said: "I won't let you go anywhere! We're returning to the palace now! Her highness has run out of patience! We have to head back now!"

I looked at Lucia stunned and helplessly cussed: "Are you for real?! She rang the martial law bell just to get me to come home?! She got the whole city into a frenzy just to have me return for dinner?! Isn't this supposed to be used to frighten invading enemies?! What? Is the kingdom done for if she doesn't see me?!"

"To her highness, you disappearing would be the equivalent of the kingdom falling."

I don't get it...

What's this strange motherly type of love...?

Chapter 21

I laid my fork and knife down, placed a hand on my forehead and let out a long sigh.

How annoying.

How god damn annoying.

No, I'm not annoyed by what happened today or the fact that mom told me off after I came back.

It's just that my body was burning up. Well, not hot, but it felt like my organs were warmer than my skin. It's the disgusting sensation where you feel really hot inside but can't do anything about it. The sensation was a physical annoyance, not an emotional one. My whole body felt really uncomfortable while my head was filled with thoughts of losing control and violence. I wanted to smash the table to bits.

My head just randomly started hurting without any prior symptoms. I was fine during the day, but I think it was around the start of the evening that I started feeling a little dizzy. I didn't pay much attention to it when it began but now it's hurting. It feels like someone is attacking my head with an awl.

It was really uncomfortable. My body was burning up, my head was hurting, I felt dizzy and had no appetite. It felt like my body was trying to expel everything inside my body. I felt extremely sick all-over. My heart was racing so fast I could hear it like a heavy shower.

My veins felt like they were going to pop. This burning sensation inside and retched feeling where nothing comes out when I try to regurgitate is so uncomfortable.

Mom's worried eyes looked over as she asked: "What's wrong my son?"

I tried my best to hold back the next burst of retching, waved my hand and said: "It's nothing, mom. I just feel a bit sick. I've probably caught a cold... Sorry,

mom, I'll pass on dinner tonight. I want to go lie down for a bit. I think I should be fine tomorrow."

Mom bit down on her fork and muttered: "Uhm... That's right, it's a full moon tonight..."

She didn't seem to be listening to what I was saying as she was in her own thoughts. I was feeling sick and even standing up felt a bit difficult. I decided not to wait any longer so I used the wall as support to make my way to my room. Everything looked distorted to me. It felt like I was walking in cotton. My throat felt like it was on fire and the veins on my arms were protruding. I felt nauseous and achy. My entire body was felt strange...

What condition is this?! I'm dizzy, nauseous, aching...

Aaaahhh!!!

Bloody hell! God damn it!! Why me?! Why does this suck so much?! Why is my room so far away?! This is pissing me off! I should just destroy all this shit!! Argh!! Destroy!! Burn!! The world is laughing mockingly at me while I'm suffering like this!! I should just destroy it!

Oh yeah, let's just kill and destroy. Let's just burn everything around. I didn't do anything wrong so why do I have to suffer this?! I'm so upset! I'm in so much pain! This world is fake! It's all a mistake! Everything is wrong! This isn't my fault... It has nothing to do with me... Why do I have to shoulder all of this...?

Let's destroy it. Let's destroy this world that's thrown everything upon me. I can do it. I can do it. I have magic flowing through me. I can destroy this world! Destroy! Destroy! Destroy! Destroy! Let's destroy this world that's completely unrelated to me!

"Your highness! Your highness!"

I suddenly tripped onto the floor and hit my head hard on the wall. The pain reduced the vengeful and violent urges that came out of left-field. Lucia held me in her arms, worriedly touched my head and said: "It's been tough on you, your highness. Tonight is a full-moon so please bear with it. You'll be fine once it's midnight..."

"I hope I can hold out until midnight... Lucia, please call a doctor for me, I'm in

a lot of pain right now... I feel really sick... Honest..."

I leaned on the wall for support and picked myself up. I could barely feel my two legs and staggered forwards. The moonlight in front of me looked like wine sprinkled downwards. I leaned on the wall and made my way forwards. Lucia suddenly yelled from behind: "Your highness!! Don't!! Don't go into the moonlight!!"

Unfortunately she was too late. I was bathing in the moonlight. It was a full moon tonight. The moonlight was like the sun. The clear rays of light covered my body like tides. Moonlight shouldn't have any temperature, but every inch of skin of my body covered in the light felt like it was set on fire. It was so painful I thought I'd die. I cried in pain as I twisted and turned on the floor. It was as though my body had a mind of its own as I squirmed on the floor. The blood in my body felt like it was looking to escape outside, like it was trying to tear apart my flesh and veins to escape.

"Your highness!! Did you forget that your body can't be exposed to moonlight in its current state?! The moonlight can collect the magic of elves, so our magic is significantly enhanced on full-moon nights, but your magic is out of control. Therefore, as soon as you make contact with the moonlight, your magic will go out of control and rip you to shreds!!"

"Th-then right now my body..."

"That's correct. It's because of the magic inside your body going berserk. Return to your room first and try to stay calm. I know it's hard, but you need to control yourself. Her highness will help you."

Lucia helped me onto my bed. The pain felt like it was going to tear apart my insides. It felt like someone was kneading my organs. Lucia looked at me with a concerned look, rubbed my forehead and said: "I'm sorry, your highness... I can't do it... Only her highness can... So... So... Please wait... To stop you from losing control, I can only..."

Lucia picked up a small bottle, opened my mouth and poured it into my mouth. Before I could even think about what she fed me, my eyes got heavy, and I passed out.

It was only then that I felt a sense of relief. If I can escape this pain after

death, then please kill me now.

I shut my eyes tightly. During my hazy moments of awakening, I felt a chilling feeling, and saw a red pair of eyes in the night sky that looked as though they wanted to swallow me whole. Those eyes were filled with desire and lust. I saw the pair of eyes encroach upon me when I was in my half-awake state...

“Good morning, your highness. It must’ve been rough for you last night.”

I was awoken by the chirping of the birds outside in the morning. Lucia pulled open the curtains and woke me up as she looked at me from a side. Then she went on to say in a surprised tone: “Your highness, are you still wetting the bed? Your bed sheets are wet.”

“It wasn’t m-... Okay, it was me...”

But I couldn’t help it!

I have to keep a lid on it even if I know the truth! What would happen otherwise? What would mom do?

Chapter 21 (Uncensored)

I laid my fork and knife down, placed a hand on my forehead and let out a long sigh.

How annoying.

How god damn annoying.

No, I'm not annoyed by what happened today or the fact that mom lectured me after I came back.

It's just that my body was burning up. Well, I wasn't feeling hot, but it felt like my organs were warmer than my skin. It's the disgusting sensation where you feel really hot inside but can't do anything about it. The sensation was a physical annoyance, not an emotional one. My whole body felt really uncomfortable while my head was filled with thoughts of losing control and violence. I wanted to smash the table to bits.

My head just randomly started hurting without any prior symptoms. I was fine during the day, but I think it was around the start of the evening that I started feeling a little dizzy. I didn't pay much attention to it when it began but now it's throbbing. It feels like someone is attacking my head with an awl.

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She didn't seem to be listening to what I was saying as she was lost in her own thoughts. I was feeling sick and even standing up felt a bit difficult. I decided not to wait any longer so I used the wall as support to make my way back to my room. Everything looked distorted to me. It felt like I was walking in cotton. My throat felt like it was on fire and the veins on my arms were protruding. I felt nauseous and achy. My entire body felt uncomfortable all over...

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Let's destroy it. Let's destroy this world that's thrown everything onto my shoulders. I can do it. I can do it. I have mana flowing through me. I can destroy this world! Destroy! Destroy! Destroy! Destroy! Let's destroy this world that's completely unrelated to me!

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"I hope I can hold out until midnight... Lucia, please call a doctor for me. I'm in a lot of pain right now... I feel really sick... Honest..."

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Lucia picked up a small bottle, opened my mouth and poured it into my

mouth. Before I could even think about what she fed me, my eyes got heavy, and I passed out.

It was only then that I felt a sense of relief. If I can escape this pain after death, then please kill me now.

“Gugh... Poot... Haa... Haa... Poot... Gugh... Gugh... Haa... Haa...”

When I woke up again, I was awoken by a strange feeling. The pain had been reduced a fair bit, but my hands and legs were numb. Further, I couldn't seem to move. I must be temporarily immobilised from the intense pain. But why, why do I feel something soft, hot and moist wrapped around my tongue? It was sucking my mouth intensely too.

I opened my eyes and saw a breathtakingly-beautiful face in front of me. Mom was very close to me. Close enough that our noses were virtually touching. Mom closed her eyes and cupped my face in her hands. As she moved, the strange feeling in my mouth changed with it. That weird sucking and moaning sound was coming from my mouth!

Mom's lips were plastered to mine as she crazily sucked my saliva and stirred my tongue!!

“Hoooooooppp!!!”

I struggled with all my might. That's when I noticed all four of my limbs had been tied down to the bed. Even my torso was bound. It's like she was trying to control a mentally ill patient. Mom pressed her entire body on mine and crazily sucked my saliva. Her tongue moved around freely in my mouth, teasing my tongue.

Where our lips met, a white string of saliva slid down my skin....

What is this?! What is she trying to do?! Mom, you're my mom! What are you doing?!

However... A strange nice feeling from my lips spread to my entire body. It felt so good my entire body went numb. It was like all the blood accumulated in my body was finally released. The great feeling like going to heaven numbed all my nerves, causing the dangerous consideration of whether or not to continue like this forever cross my mind.

“Gugh... Haa... Haa... Ahh... Son... My son... You’re awake...?”

Mom seemed to notice my abnormality. She released her hands and let me go. She opened her eyes wide. However, her eyes which were blue as the sea were a flirtatious blood-red colour under the moonlight. They were shimmering with a dangerous and seductive light. Mom looked at me with a charming smile and seductively wiped the traces from her the corner of her mouth. Her blood-red eyes focused their gaze on me. She leaned over which made her breasts exude an oppressive feeling. Mom’s smile was really close to me. Mom’s seductive body was pressed against mine, and she only wore a simple green negligee.

I felt like I was about to commit a sin!!!

“My son... My only son... Mine... Mine... My most beloved son... My brother’s son... Ah... Ah... These are my brother’s eyes... This is the shape of my brother’s face... Ah... Ah... This is the continuation of my brother... This is my child, my son....”

Mom’s expression was hideously scary. She pinched my chest tightly and ripped it aggressively.

“AAAHH! That hurts!!”

I looked at mom terrified, who was looking at the blood on her fingernails. She looked at them seductively and licked the blood off, finger by finger.

“Ah... Amazing... Amazing! My son’s blood... My brother’s blood... Son... You’re all my mine... You’re all mine....”

Mom leaned over, stuck her tongue out and engrossed herself in licking the blood that seeped out of my wound. The tip of her tongue was warm and wet. It slid around on my chest. Mom bit my wound and tugged it hard. She sucked on it like she was going to rip my flesh off and eat it. I resisted the intense pain and inerasable vacuity feeling from my wound. However, I felt great deep down, like I wanted to be ripped apart by mom. Shredded and eaten, piece by piece.

“Son... Son... I know... I know what you’re thinking as you look at mommy every day... You want what you used to suck on, right...? Alright. Alright... Just

tell mommy if you want it... Mommy will satisfy you, because mommy will forever be your mom. And you, will forever be mommy's son...."

Mom's smile turned particularly terrifying in front of me. I looked at mom's blood-red eyes feeling terrified while my body was frozen. Mom released the vine on my left hand, grabbed my powerless left hand and aggressively placed it on her glorious boob.

"Aaahh! Aaahh!!"

The soft, warm and fulfilling feeling was far too real for a virgin like me!

"Hehehe... Your reaction is so funny, son... Hahahahaha... This is my son... My son that belongs to only me.... Ah.... Mommy really wants to shove you back in.... Ahh.... Mommy wants to raise you all over again.... Ah.... Mommy wants to relive every moment spent with you.... Mommy wants to relive those moments without that bitch and Lucia.... Just the moments with the two of us.... Ahh...."

Mom smiled as she tossed away my hand and then quickly leaned over and pressed her lips firmly on mine.

Mom greedily sucked every drop of saliva I secreted. It was such a shameful act, but as mom sucked out my saliva, my body felt further and further relaxed. The power that seemingly tried to rip me apart seemed to seep out bit by bit following mom's movements.

I resisted with everything I had, yet I wished that moment would continue. Am I broken...? Is my brain malfunctioning...? We can't do this no matter what.... A mother and son doing something like this... While I do occasionally have fantasies about mom's body, we can't do this!

"Fuu... Fuu... Fuu..."

Mom's expression slowly started to change. An inexplicable flush appeared on her face. I couldn't see her other hand and I didn't know what she was doing either! But I did notice her clench her hand on my chest tightly. The mana in my body seemed to have been emptied. I could feel... I could feel that huge fireball in my body had been sucked dry.

"Gugh... Gugh... Hnng... Haa... Haa... Gu... Huu... I... It's over... Ah... Aaaahhh!!"

I should be the one that's roaring. The last flame of the massive fireball in my body got sucked out. Mom let go of my mouth in an aggressive fashion, and let out an elated and surprised shriek. Her body then jolted a few times before she finally lay down on my body and had a respite.

I too felt like all my blood had been drained of my body, leaving me with a sense of complete powerlessness and I fell into a deep sleep once again.

How I wish this was all a dream.... What happened basically shook my philosophies, world view and values. I now question the value of my existence and the meaning of the universe.

“Good morning, your highness. It must’ve been rough for you last night.”

I was awoken by the chirping of the birds outside in the morning. Lucia pulled open the curtains and woke me up as she looked at me from the side. Then she went on to remark in a surprised tone: “Your highness, are you still wetting the bed? Your bed sheets are wet.”

“It wasn’t m-... Okay, it was me...”

But I couldn’t help it!

I know the truth, but I have to keep a lid on it! What would happen otherwise? What would mom do?

Chapter 22

“Good morning, mom...”

My greeting this morning was really awkward. I tried to convince myself that last night’s dream was truly just a mere dream, but the scar on my chest told me it was unarguably real. As such, when I met mom, I almost tripped over.

“Uhm, good morning, my child. I’m glad to see you’ve recovered.”

Mom walked up to me and touched my forehead with a smile. She scanned me with her blue eyes filled with love. Then she took a step back and said with a smile: “Don’t worry about attending anything today, just stay in the palace and rest.”

I muttered with my head down: “Okay...”

I only caught a glimpse of mom’s back when she lightly turned around and left. My mom was once again her elegant and dignified self. It was like the mom that was on the border of going crazy last night never existed. Her eyes were blue like a bottomless ocean, while those charming and dangerous red eyes seemed to have disappeared for good.

Mom didn’t mention yesterday’s matter, and I had no way of bringing it up. The whole thing was like a nightmare to me, but it happened without question. At the same time something I couldn’t handle. I now know the origin of elves’ mana is the moon and that my body will be in tonnes of pain on full-moon nights. So will mom transform due to mana?

Mom didn’t kiss me last night. It’s more correct to say that she was crazily sucking my saliva and blood out. I don’t know why she has to do that, but after she sucked out a large amount of my saliva, the sickening feeling in my body dissipated. Perhaps mom sucked my mana out by sucking my saliva out.

If I look at it that way, then mom must’ve been trying to save me last night.

“What’s wrong? Your highness, you still don’t look too good. Do you want to

return to your room to rest?"

Lucia appeared behind me and looked at me with concern. I shook my head, turned around to her and said: "I'm going to make a trip to the library, do you want to come?"

Lucia paused for a moment and then said: "Okay, sure. But if you have anything you'd like to know just ask me directly. I'm not as knowledgeable as a library, but I should know as long as it's not too tricky. As a bodyguard of the royal family, we have to know a bit about everything."

"Is that right...?"

I hesitated since I wasn't sure if I should ask Lucia about it. Logically speaking, I should know what mom did and why she did it, as well as my transformation on full-moon nights. Would it be weird for me to ask Lucia about it now? This should be common knowledge for me, right...?

"Yes..." Lucia looked at me with a hint of hesitation. She then sighed and said: "You go through this every month, so why are you so dispirited this month? You look pale and you're always in a daze. Was it because her highness didn't suck out enough...?"

"Every month?!"

"Yes. Other than times when you're with the humans, her highness always sucks away your mana every month." Lucia looked at me with a confused look as I expected and asked: "Was it more serious than usual last night? Did you forget about this? I think you should have a good rest. You still look low in spirits... Has your mana increased recently to the point where her highness isn't capable of handling it? That'd be very dangerous..."

Lucia wore a serious look. It didn't look like she was lying. If my condition continues worsening then I'll be in danger... Thinking back on the pain I endured when exposed to the moonlight gives me the shivers. I looked at Lucia and asked carefully: "Lucia... I want to know... What will happen if my condition continues worsening?"

Lucia looked at me and spoke casually like she was describing the weather: "Obviously you'll die when your veins burst one full-moon night when your

body can't handle it."

Doesn't that mean I'll explode?! That's scary!! Why do you sound so nonchalant about it?! Don't you love me anymore?! Don't you care about me anymore?! How are you so carefree when I'm facing such a scary future?!

Perhaps she saw the fear in my eyes. She gave me a pat on the shoulder, then looked at me and proudly said: "Ah, don't worry. Don't worry. You have her highness there for you, your highness, so you don't have to worry. You'll be fine after she sucks the mana you can't control out on full-moon nights. That teeny bit of mana of yours is just like a snack for her highness who's a demi-god, so you don't have to worry. Her highness is a demi-god. She's the got the strongest mana of all royal family members in history. Her highness increases her mana every time your mana goes out of control on full-moon nights as well, so there's no need to worry about the future."

"Is there a possibility that she doesn't suck it all out properly?"

Lucia shrugged, and then pointed at me chest to say: "Yes, of course... Mmm... Don't you already know about this, your highness? Your mana purity levels are so high it's off the charts. It's just that you can't use it. You do have the blood of royalty flowing through your body after all."

"One's mana determines how difficult it is for them to use magic... Sorry, my mana purity is only level three. But that's not important. Mana can flow. It continually flows throughout your body through your blood and saliva. In other words, Mana is present in every part of your body that is comprised of some form of liquid. Mana isn't water. The flow of mana just increases or decreases in terms of concentration. If somebody with a low concentration of mana tries to absorb highly concentrated mana, then the mana in the vessel with lower concentration will go out of control. It's the same logic as trying to fill a water tank with more water than it can hold. If you do that, it'll inevitably burst. To relate it back, when your mana goes berserk, you need someone with a high concentration of mana to absorb it from you."

I nodded to indicate I understood. That must be why mom absorbed my saliva and blood. But isn't sucking my saliva out mouth-to-mouth a bit too sexual...? Can't she suck my blood instead?

Lucia seemed to see through my thoughts and continued: “Ah... Of course, the amount of mana inside you that goes berserk is massive. If it had to be absorbed by sucking your blood, you’d most likely die from loss of blood. It’s precisely because of this very reason that only her highness is capable of absorbing that portion of your mana. I tried once in the past. I just licked your lip and my insides felt like they were being ripped to shreds. I remember I passed out from the pain that night.”

Lucia shivered as though the memory of that night still scares her. I think the reason why I still haven’t kissed Lucia to this day is because of that... Every time I close in on her for a kiss, she shivers a bit. Turns out it was because of the memory of that incident.

“Okay, I want know if all elves will undergo some sort of transformation on full-moon nights.”

I looked at Lucia with curiosity. If her answer is a “yes”, then what was Lucia like that night?

“Yes. According to the legends, elves are created by the God of Creation on full-moon nights. Our ancestors also hunted on full-moon nights. Hunting harvests and the brightness of moonlight are highly correlated. Over the years, this accumulation causes us elves to transform to some degree on full-moon nights. To be more accurate, our true nature comes out. It’s like our usually suppressed emotions come out... That’s why lots of couples are formed on full-moon nights. To celebrate the forming of lovers, the following day, which is today, we light up a big bonfire. If they dance around the fire, then couples will receive the blessings of Claudia the Goddess of Fire! So let’s go dance tonight, your highness!!”

Lucia suddenly grabbed my hand and looked at me with eyes full of anticipation.

“Sure... Ah, wait! How did our topic suddenly change to tonight’s dance?! Wait. Wait. Wait... I mean... Umm... Do we undergo appearance transformations on full-moon nights?”

“Of course not. Elves flesh isn’t created from mana, only our insides are. Since it doesn’t contain mana, it won’t be affected by the moonlight.”

Lucia shrugged and then pointed me to say: “Even someone with mana purity levels as high as you won’t undergo an appearance transformation on a full-moon night. Look at your ears. They’re always human ears regardless. In short, the moon only influences mana, not our bodies.”

What about mom’s eyes then...? I mean I’d believe it if you told me mom was overflowing with love, because she’s a son-con after all. It’d make sense if you said she suddenly got sick yesterday as well. But what’s up with her eyes turning from blue to red? Since mana doesn’t influence our body, her eye colour shouldn’t have changed. So... Who did those red eyes belong to?

Was that mom or not?

“So, if our body doesn’t change, then... But I saw mom last night... Mmm... But she gave me a weird feeling.”

“Oh, you saw her highness last night, right? Sorry, I’ll have to correct myself there. What I said applies if you saw an elf, because an elf’s body doesn’t transform. However, her highness is a demi-god. Her highness is the only elf who completed the Tower of Heaven. Her body has basically been altered by magic. She’s the elf that’s closest to being a divine deity among all elves. So on full-moon nights, the surge of mana transforms her body into what you saw last night.”

Lucia leisurely continued: “But don’t worry, even if her appearance changes, she’s still her highness. She’s still aware of what she’s doing. It was thanks to her might that we were able to emerge victorious in the previous war.”

“Wait! So you’re saying you’ve seen her transformed look last night before?!”

Lucia looked at me a little upset and said: “Of course I have. I was there guarding you when her highness was sucking your mana out. I do that every month. Haven’t you once noticed my presence in all these months? You told me before that you wouldn’t be in pain if I were there... Was that all a lie...?”

“Ah... Well... Uhh...”

I wish you knew I wasn’t him! My fiancé saw my mom lie on top of me and suck my saliva out mouth-to-mouth. I nearly gave me into my lust. I’m so ashamed I want to hole up! Aren’t you jealous?! Doesn’t it make you angry?!

Ah... Getting angry and jealous would be meaningless. Even if I looked full of energy, it's just a form of treatment after all... Other than her highness, no one can help so Lucia can only watch... But I don't detect any hatred in Lucia's eyes.

To test Lucia, I asked her: "Say, Lucia... Aren't you angry seeing mom and I do something like that...?"

Bewildered, Lucia tilted her head and asked: "Angry? Why would I be angry? Her highness was trying to save you. What should I be angry about?"

"Ah, yeah... Yeah, you're right..."

Sorry, I just thought of the whole thing in a sick-minded way...

We continued chatting as we walked until we reached the atrium corridor. Outside were flower beds and the sunlight Lucia looked at the flowers in the flower beds and said with a smile: "Look your highness, the flowers are blooming healthily this year."

"I agree."

Lucia excitedly ran to the side of the flower bed, bent over and admired each flower. I walked over to her side and joined her. I ran my eyes over the flowers. My eye noticed the small yellow flower that I never wanted to see again. That flower almost killed me... Twice!

Lucia stretched her hand out to pluck a flower, looked at me with a smile and said: "This is fantastic... Your highness will be accompanying me to the dance party."

"Ah, well, we're lovers. It'd be great to go to the dance party together and receive the goddess's blessings."

What was that goddess's name again? Well, who cares, I don't believe in divine beings anyway. But is it alright for you to chase blessings from the goddess of fire when you receive buffs from the wind elves? Oh wait, it's just a formality, there won't be an actual goddess blessing us, right? I assume it's like rituals humans conduct.

Lucia lowered her head, leaned on me, placed her hands on my chest, rest her head on my shoulders and said: "Your highness, you'll be leaving tomorrow... I

still get sad each time even though it's a monthly thing. You're so gentle and kind to me, so each time you leave, I always feel my heart ache."

I embraced her lightly and then stroked her head as I said: "I'll be back."

She squeezed me tighter and said in a loud voice: "Don't... Fall for someone else..."

"I know. I know. I won't fall for someone else because I honestly really like you..."

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